# Hafa Adail afford to pay \$50 a month. Salpan Tribune THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER www.saipantribune.com

# Inos submits \$145M budget for FY'16



Two U.S Air Force service members stand at attention during the burial ceremony for David Ayres, shown here at inset, at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday morning. Foreground shows Ayres first wife, Bobby, left, and their oldest daughter Melissa, right, watching the ceremony.

# Veteran's dying wish is fulfilled

By JAYSON CAMACHO

David Darrell Ayres is finally home.

The U.S. Air Force veteran passed away in Aug. 17, 2013, but he was only buried yesterday morning at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, end- wish to be buried here. ing an almost two-year journey by his family to fulfill Ayres' dying wish.

His burial yesterday was marked by a brief and solemn ceremony attended by Ayres' first wife Bobby, oldest daughter Melissa, and granddaughters Gracie and Molly Doyle.

Melissa said that Ayres, who was born on March 13, 1940, loved Saipan so much it was his

Although he was not a World War II veteran, he

See VETERAN on Page 4

By JOEL D. PINAROC joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com REPORTER

ov. Eloy S. Inos submitted a budget proposal of \$145.8 million to the Legislature late Wednesday night to beat the April 1 deadline mandated by the Constitution.

See BUDGET on Page 4

# Lawmakers grill military on divert plan

By JOEL D. PINAROC

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Members of the Legislature came out in droves yesterday to attend a special meeting with ranking officers of the U.S. military's Pacific forces to discuss the military's plan to build a "hybrid" alternative airfield in the Commonwealth.

The meeting on Capital Hill was the first between the military and lawmakers regarding the proposed

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, called for the meeting in a letter earlier sent to the

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

➤ Draft impact

### Military plans to drill own water wells on Tinian

### » Rights to groundwater have to be clarified RELATED NEWS

By DENNIS B. CHAN

statement on military plans out The U.S. military aims to today. PAGE 2 drill into Tinian five new

vertical wells from which to draw potable water, but they must first answer to what exact rights they have to Tinian's water, and if the current commercial water system can be hooked

See WATER WELLS on Page 4



### LOCAL

MINA's Plastic Bag Challenge kicks off with celebrity bagging event.

» PAGE 18



### BUSINESS

McDonald's says it's raising pay for workers at companyowned U.S. restaurants.

» PAGE 20



### LIFE & STYLE

to these new wells.

A new series, "A.D. The Bible Continues" infuses the biblical epic with political drama.

» PAGE 24



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**2** FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Local

# Draft impact statement on military plans out soon

By JAYSON JOHN CAMACHO REPORTER

The Commonwealth Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement draft is set for release today, April 3, and will be made available to the public and online as early as April 4.

In a brief overview of what to expect of the CJMT EIS, Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig Whelden said the draft EIS/OEIS (Overseas Environmental Impact Statement) details the U.S military's proposals for Tinian and Pagan.

The 20-page primer states that to rebalance military forces in the Asia Pacific region, the U.S military proposes to incapabilities by developing livefire ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan.

The U.S Marine Corps is leading this initiative on behalf of the U.S Pacific Command and includes proposed action for the use of the land, air and sea space for training purposes.

A 2009 Institute for Defense Analyses Study states that the Marianas are strategically poised in supporting the U.S Pacific Command throughout the Pacific and the greatest number of training deficiencies is in the CNMI.

In 2010, the quadrennial defense review—a legislatively mandated review of Depart-

crease joint military training ment of Defense strategy and priorities—called for the development of additional training capabilities for unit, combined, and joint forces in the Western Pacific.

> In 2013, a training needs assessment reiterated that the greatest number of training deficiencies exists in the CNMI and it identified unfilled training requirements. A key criterion is open access, which is not guaranteed in other regions.

> In 2013, a CJMT requirements and siting study determined that Tinian and Pagan are the only islands capable of meeting the unit level and combined level screening criteria and only a combination of range

and training areas on Tinian and Pagan could address the 42 unfilled training requirements.

The CJMT establishes a series of live-fire Range Training Areas or RTAs within the CNMI to address the U.S Pacific Service Components' unfilled joint military training requirements. RTAs are live-fire ranges, training courses, maneuver areas, and associated support facilities located near one another.

### Relation to Guam, Tinian, Pagan

Military training applies the "crawl, walk, and run" philosophy, in which a service member progresses from individual to combined level training.

Crawl phase is for individual level proficiencies that includes one small group or single crew with basic marksmanship and physical fitness and occurs more frequently than other training levels.

Walk phase is for unit level proficiencies that include small units-about 10 to 100 personnel-with mission essential tasks and ranges that are larger than basic level.

The Run phase is for combined level proficiencies that includes multiple types of units on ground, sea, air, and logistics to quires federal agencies to look train together in larger and less frequent events. It provides an opportunity to simultaneously train all unit personnel and multiple functions, in a complex and dynamic setting.

Under the proposed action, a unit level for "walk" RTA is proposed on Tinian, a "run" RTA is proposed on Pagan, and the "crawl" RTA will be in Guam.

### **Alternatives**

The National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA process reat a reasonable range of alternatives. For this specific CJMT, it focuses on Tinian and Pagan.

These alternatives were then refined to minimize impacts that includes segmented airspace, moved firing positions farther from population centers, and reduced night training.

For Tinian, there are three alternatives and for Pagan there are two.

The U.S military proposes a training tempo of 20 weeks per See DRAFT on Page 4

### CUC hires Ruszala as PIO

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday the addition of Brad Ruszala as its new public information officer. Ruszala comes with a wealth of communications experience, having spent nearly seven years as the marketing coordinator for a regional telecom and another six years in print, radio, and television as a reporter and anchor.

A long-time resident of the Marianas, Ruszala looks forward to being a part of a public corporation.

"I'm excited about the prospect of providing our island communities with information about what's happening with our utility. I look forward to working with the CUC team to develop their communications policies that will more effectively share the progress made by our hardworking staff," he said.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said: "Brad's wealth of experience with public relations and the media make him a key addition to our corporation. Having him on the team allows us to better engage our customers and conduct community outreach in line with our goals for the coming years." (CUC)





ASQ-3 is a set of questionnaires about children's development. It has been used for more than 20 years to make sure children are developing well. It is called a screener because it looks at how children are doing in important areas, such as:

speech,

physical ability,

social skills, and problem-solving skills.

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You are an active partner in your child's learning and development. By completing ASQ-3 questionnaires at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Children's Clinic, Children's Developmental Assistance Center, or at some participating daycare centers, you are making sure your child is off to the best possible start!

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If you have any concerns about your child's development, contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) at 664-4841



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H25MC06112, Community-Based Integrated Seruice Systems - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.





# 'Cops didn't violate rights of ex-official in ice case'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has denied a motion filed by Tilford S. Toves to suppress the statements he gave police officers after being arrested for alleged trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice."

In an order on Wednesday, Camacho found the testimonies of police officers Francis Manglona and Paul Ogumoro to be credible and ruled that what they did to Toves was a standard arrest.

Camacho said the officers holstered their guns as soon as it was clear that Toves was complying with the arrest.

The judge noted that when Toves was taken to the Drug Enforcement Administration office on Saipan, his handcuffs were removed, and the officers allowed him to eat and drink.

In addition, based on testimony, Camacho said he finds that Toves was not misled or deceived by Ogumoro.

Camacho said Ogumoro not only read through the waiver of rights form with Toves, but he also allowed him to scratch out a signature and make a correction on the form.

Toves is a former Rota Finance Procurement and Supply acting administrator.

In June 2014, police officers arrested Toves and then-Commonwealth Health Center administrative staff Berlinda C. Flawau for alleged trafficking of "ice" on Rota.

The two's arrest came about after police discovered, through a confidential source, that Flawau allegedly sent a package to Toves containing 20 baggies of "ice" from Saipan to Rota on June 11, 2014.

Officers allegedly seized \$1,000 worth of "ice" during the operation.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Toves with attempted illegal possession of a controlled substance, conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance, and restriction upon the use of a government vehicle.

Toves, through assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, filed a motion to suppress his statements.

Meyer argued, among other things, that Toves was unnecessarily coerced and intimidated by Rota police, who arrested him with guns drawn.

In the government's opposi-

tion, Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas asserted that Toves' constitutional rights were not violated as DPS personnel did not interrogate him while on Rota; DPS repeatedly asked him whether he understood each of his constitutional rights from a "Waiver of Rights" form, which he answered "yes" and initialed next to each question.

At the hearing on the motion last Friday, the court heard the testimonies of Manglona, Ogumoro, and Toves.

In denying the motion, Camacho said that based on a totality of the circumstances, Toves knowingly and voluntarily waived his rights.

Camacho said Toves initialed each line of the waiver form, and ultimately signed the bot-

Then, the judge noted, Toves began to voluntarily answer Ogumoro's questions.

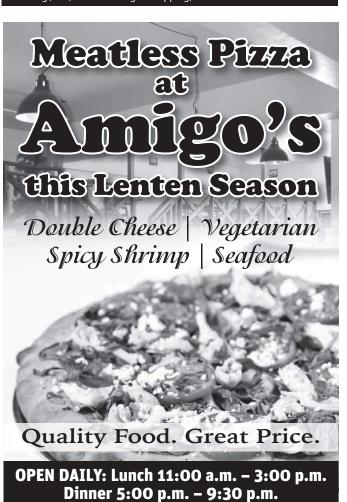
Thus, the defendant's statements to officer Ogumoro were made knowingly and voluntarily," Camacho said.



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### **VETERAN**

From Page 1

was a veteran who called Saipan home after moving here with Bobby back in 1988.

"He absolutely loved it here and it was his home. It wasn't until he got sick that he had to leave. He loved the fishing, he loved the golf and the beaches, and the laidback lifestyle," Melissa said.

Ayres was forced to leave Saipan seven years ago after his kidney failed. At that time, there was no nephrologist on the island, so he left the place he pretty much considered home to seek extensive medical care in Austin, Texas, according to Bobby.

Ayres' family had little details about his work, but believe he was an E-5 staff sergeant for the U.S Air Force. Melissa said her father told them little about his work and didn't go into too much detail about it, but they felt his military work was top secret.

Bobby said that Ayres had a top-secret cryptic clearance. "When I first met him he told me he was in the U.S Air Force security service and I thought he went around checking buildings, windows, and doors. It wasn't until I had known him for a while that he said he was involved

in national security and that he wasn't allowed to share information. He would be taken away in the middle of the night sometimes to go fly someplace and we never just asked any questions," Bobby said.

As a father, Ayres was a great father, very attentive, and was always there, Melissa said. Even after Ayres moved to Saipan in 1988, Melissa said she kept in touch with him.

"I came out almost once a year and when I had the girls we've come out a few times since then and when he got sick and moved to Austin, Texas, we'd visit him there and my daughters had a lot of fun with their grandfather,"

she said.

Although they eventually separated, Bobby said she and Ayres had wonderful early years together.

"I actually met him on his tour in Germany and followed him all over Europe including Britain. He and I were married in Switzerland and traveled extensively and he made me laugh everyday," Bobby said.

They were supposed to scatter his ashes in the Saipan lagoon but Melissa said the family realized there was the veterans cemetery here and thought it would be a better choice to bury his ashes there so that they will have a place to visit him when they return.

Melissa lives in Idaho, while
Bobby lives in Dandan and is
currently working at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

older brother or a second father. His love for history was great," Marron said. "He was a very enjoyable person to

His longtime best friend, Steve Marron, had known Ayres since he got to Saipan. Marron arrived on Saipan just a couple of years before Ayres and the two clicked it off right away because both liked to golf, fish, and check things out.

"He took me in like an

older brother or a second father. His love for history was great," Marron said. "He was a very enjoyable person to be around with and he was a straight shooter. He said what he thought and he spoke the truth."

CNMI Veterans Office director Vicente Camacho said it is always a special honor to hold a burial ceremony for a veteran.

### WATER WELLS

From Page 1

According to the CNMI Joint Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement, copies of which were obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the military has laid out plans for four range complexes on Tinian inclusive of grenade, tank, pistol, and mortar activity. The new wells come with other construction requirements like roads, fuel pipelines and tanks, and wastewater facilities, among others, for this training.

The DEIS said the average daily potable water demand for the proposed military action is about 262,200 gallons per day. It says the potable water source will come from new vertical wells drilled within the military's leased area. The wells will be installed in areas northeast of their base camp.

Speaking before members of the Legislature yesterday afternoon, Marine Corps Forces Pacific disclosed that the draft environmental impact statement explains "that a new well field will be needed to support water demand from construction and training."

"The existing water system will be needed to support the water demand from construction and training," MarForPac executive director Craig Whelden said, adding that they will meet further with the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality to discuss the matter.

"The two outstanding legal questions are—what rights on the lease do the military has to water? And second, can the existing Tinian water system

be tied into the new military wells?" he added.

Whelden was responding to Sen. Jude Hofschneider, who cited the CNMI Constitution, saying the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is the authority for all underground water and minerals.

"Water is very important to us on Tinian," Hofschneider said. "We have a sole-source aquifer that is in the north third of Tinian. I am wondering if you are going to be using the city water or are you going to be using the deep well."

According to Whelden, a draft aquifer study report is due on June 24 for their review. The first version for CNMI eyes will be due in November this year.

In an interview, Whelden say they "have every expectation of having to drill a new well" because the existing infrastructure for Tinian is "incapable of supporting us."

"We are having the legal people assess that... Can, for example, the people of Tinian benefit from a well that is drilled for the purpose of supporting the military? I don't know the answer to that. We've asked that. Our objective is to have no impact, or positive impact on the people of Tinian with respect to anything with water," he said.

As to who has say over the groundwater, BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman earlier noted that this would be a public resource. "And that goes to anybody," he had said. "Just because you own that property doesn't mean you can dig in and extract as much groundwater as you can." He was citing the Commonwealth Groundwater Management and Protection Act.

### **LAWMAKERS**

From Page 1

military top brass.

Present to face the lawmakers were Maj. Gen. Michael Dana from Pacific Command, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, Brig. Gen. Steven Basham from Pacific Air Forces, and Craig Whelden, executive director of Marine Forces Pacific.

For Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), a military presence on an island that is very much dependent on tourism may have a negative impact on the industry. He said it might send a signal that something is "wrong," particularly if the military presence is on Saipan.

Sen. Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said noise pollution remains a major concern, citing the military planes flying in and out of the proposed divert airfield. "I am requesting the military to also listen to the needs of the community," Palacios said.

For Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), there are "many areas

that need clarity." He cited marine protected areas, or MPAs, that, because of military exercises, no longer exist. He also stressed that proposed military training in some areas, such as Pagan, may not bode well with locals living in these areas.

"There are a lot of questions, and a lot of issues that the military needs to address clearly," Igisomar said, adding that one of these major questions is if there really is an economic value that will result from these military installations

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) asked if there is a letter from the U.S. government specifically asking if the military can now acquire more CNMI lands. "Where are we at? Do we have a timeline, and what happens if we say "no"?"Ogumoro asked.

For Rep. BJ Attao (Ind-Saipan), the military should also look into developing the south side of Tinian instead of just focusing on the north side. "Since the military is looking to help the economy, why not focus on the north side to help

the residents there?"

### **Divert plan and draft EIS**

Brig. Gen. Basham said that one of the changes made in the hybrid divert plan is the scrapping of fighter jets landing on Saipan and Tinian. The changes were made to accommodate concerns on noise pollution, he said.

MarForPac's Whelden added that as far as the economy is concerned, the military installation, particularly those on Tinian, will need to be manned by 95 workers.

He said the military is not looking at having its personnel stay in the military base for an extended period of time, but some of the military installations still need to be maintained, thus the need for island workers.

Whelden said the military is also committed to purchasing resources from local businesses as much as possible, and will tap contractors for related projects such as construction.

Regarding concerns for the environment, Whelden said a draft environmental impact

statement on the divert plan will be made public this Saturday, April 4, on the *Federal Register*:

He said the draft EIS attempts to answer many of the lawmakers' concerns.

Whelden emphasized that there is no formal request yet for the military or federal government to acquire or lease lands in the CNMI, adding that the whole divert plan can be considered a "fact-finding" project.

Whelden said specialist on the draft EIS will be on island next week to set another meeting.

The meeting, tentatively set on April 6, will discuss questions on the environmental impact of the divert plan.

Demapan said the meeting "was a good start" to find out more on the military's divert plan. He will again preside over the meeting next week.

The divert plan proposes to build an alternative landing site in the CNMI for U.S. Air Force planes in the event the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is not available due to war or disaster.

### Breakdown

According to the governor's proposed spending plan, there will be an increased allocation toward the Settlement Trust by \$3 million, boosting the \$27 million allotted to the fund to \$30 million. This will cover the minimum annual payment sufficient to enable the Fund to pay 75 percent of class members' full benefits.

The remaining 25 percent of class members' full benefits is earmarked as a separate contribution to the Settlement Fund pursuant to Public Laws 18-30 and Public Law 18-56.

The Public School System will get 25 percent of general fund revenues, \$36.45 million, as mandated by a recently enacted legislative initiative.

Out of the sum, \$29.13 million is for current actual salaries for PSS and those under the Board of Education. The PSS budget also allocates \$3.6 million for payment of current and outstanding utilities, and \$3.1

million for all schools' deferred facilities maintenance.

The newly created Department of Fire and EMS will get an increase of \$687,000 in its budget, from \$2.569 million in fiscal year 2015 to \$3.3 million for fiscal 2016.

For the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the budget proposal included the continued contribution of \$2 million to help defray the cost of clinical services for indigents.

The Northern Marianas College is proposed to get an allocation of \$4.475 million for fiscal 2016.

A budget of \$1.7 million is being proposed for the CNMI Department of Labor from the Commonwealth workers' fee funds.

The budget plan allocates \$12.7 million for utilities to defray utility consumption charges for the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. It recommends an increase of budget allocation for utilities in the future.

The municipalities of Tinian and Rota will receive equal allocation for utilities payment of \$465,000 each.

# DRAFT From Page 2

year of live-fire training on Tinian and 16 weeks per year of live-fire training on Pagan.

Of all the alternatives, the "preferred alternative" for both Pagan and Tinian is the second alternative, and may be based on a variety of factors in addition to impacts to the environment.

To meet the CJMT's purpose and need, an alternative must include one on Tinian and one on Pagan.

Both alternatives show both minimal impact on the environment, according to the draft EIS/OEIS.

### **Environmental analysis**

For Tinian and Pagan, an impact

determination was made by the draft EIS/OEIS for the proposed action alternatives for each potential impact as to whether the impact would be less than significant or significant.

If the impact is significant, an additional determination was made if it could be reduced to "less than" significant after putting into action potential mitigation measures.

For Tinian, significant impacts that could not be mitigated to less than significant included geology and soils, noise, land and submerged land use, recreation, terrestrial biology, marine biology, visual resources, and socioeconomics.

For Pagan, significant impacts will be on its land and submerged land use, terrestrial biology, marine biology, and socioeconomics.

### Surpun), there

BUDGET

From Page 1

The budget represents an increase of \$11.5 million, or 8.55 percent, from the budget of the previous fiscal year, Inos said in a letter to House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota).

"After adjusting for debt service appropriations, earmarked funds, and other legal obligations, the net resources available for general appropriations is \$145,820,375," Inos said.

The budget was derived from the gross budgetary resources reported by the Secretary of Finance for fiscal year 2016 at \$183.55 million.

Of that amount, 37 percent (\$68 million) came from business gross revenue tax, while 21 percent (\$38 million) came from income taxes.

Excise taxes contributed 18 percent (\$32.4 million) of the gross budget, while "other taxes" pitched in 13 percent (\$24.6 million).

Licenses and fees contributed 7 percent (\$13.3 million), while charges for services and other revenue contributed 4 percent (\$7.2 million) combined.

The government was earlier expected to submit a lower budget of \$134 million.

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the Committee Ways and Means that will handle the budget hearings, said the \$145.8 million budget was "reasonable." He said he would have been "concerned" if the budget was pegged at \$137 million.

"There have been economic activities out there. I see a lot of people working out there," Sablan said, adding that more enforcement of tax collections should also be looked at.

"I'm glad to see the numbers, which are more realistic," Sablan.

Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) added that \$145.8 million is "better than \$134 million."

The hard work is expected to now begin for lawmakers, with impending hearings on the individual budget appropriations for the different government agencies.

### **TO SATISFY \$2.8-MILLION JUDGMENT**

# Quichocho says he can only afford to pay \$50 a month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho says he is now selfemployed and works as a truck driver in Tacoma, Washington, and that he cannot afford to make any payments on a court judgment that holds him and his wife liable to pay businesswoman Jung Ja Kim \$2.8 million.

In his declaration in federal court yesterday, Quichocho said he can possibly make \$50 payments per month until his financial condition gets better.

Quichocho made the declaration in support of his and his wife Frances' joint opposition to Kim's motion for order in aid of judgment.

Kim's lawyer, Robert T. Torres, had asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to summon Quichocho and his wife and compel them to reveal information about their assets and those that were transferred during the course of the litigation.

Torres disclosed that Quichocho allegedly transferred 10 parcels of land on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to his brother, Ignacio, supposedly for \$30,000, while his and wife's jury trial was ongoing.

That case eventually ended up with the Quichocho couple being held liable to pay \$2.4 million in damages to Kim. The court recently awarded Kim \$387,791.15 for her damages, costs, and attorney's fees. The award brings the total amount the couple is liable to pay Kim to \$2,799,510.24.

Torres also revealed that on Aug. 27, 2014, after the entry of final judgment in Kim's case, Quichocho quitclaimed two more parcels of land on Rota consisting of 8,077 square meters to his uncle, Joaquin Q. Atalig, for just \$1.

The Quichochos filed the joint opposition to Kim's motion yesterday. Quichocho represented himself in the opposition, while attorney Michael W. Dotts served as counsel for Frances.

Quichocho and Dotts asserted that the first transaction was intended to raise money for the couple because Quichocho had essentially been forced to close his law firm on Saipan so he could defend Kim's lawsuit.

Quichocho and Dotts said as there was no judgment or lien at the time of the first transaction, and as it was for value, it would be improper for the court to set it aside.

As for the second transaction, Quichocho and Dotts said this occurred about five months after the first transaction and happened to settle another litigation.

"Neither the first nor the second transactions were to defeat the interests of a creditor. The transactions were fair and legitimate. They were for value," they said.

Quichocho and Dotts said as Kim had no liens on the properties, and not even a judgment when the first transaction occurred, so her effort to set aside the deals is inappropriate.

They asked the court to deny Kim's motion in its entirety. As alternative, they asked the court to set a reasonable amount for the Quichochos to pay Kim monthly.

In his declaration, Quichocho said he, his wife, and their daughter currently stay in Wash-

# >>> Disbarred lawyer says he is now a truck driver

ington with his brother and sister, who have been helping with some of their expenses.

He said he is self-employed and is operating 4K Driving Power, where he serves as a truck driver.

He said Frances is not employed at this time.

Quichocho said his business has a total monthly gross income of \$1,400, but their total expenses per month is \$1,533.

Quichocho said he and his wife sold their real properties to his brother, Ignacio, in February 2014 to raise funds to pay for his business and his family's living costs and expenses.

He said his income had substantially decreased beginning several months before the trial in Kim's lawsuit started.

Quichocho said that on Aug. 27, 2014, almost five months af-

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ter he sold his land to his brother, he and his wife transferred their interests to the real properties to his uncle, Joaquin Atalig.

Quichocho said he made the transfer so that Atalig could settle with Sin Ho Nam's lawsuit by giving him a new 55-year lease over the same properties.

He said Nam now holds a 55-year leasehold interest in the properties.

The trial in Kim's racketeering lawsuit began on Feb. 3,



2014. On March 28, 2014, the jury reached a verdict, holding the Quichocho couple and his law firm liable to pay \$2.4 million in damages to Kim.







"Where learning is a way of life"

# Military bigwigs hold meet-and-greet with Inos

By JOEL D. PINAROC

joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com

Ranking officials of the U.S. Department of Defense had a meet-and-greet session with Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday on Capital Hill, during which the governor emphasized to the visiting officials that there is much local resistance to the military's

plan to build a divert airfield don Saipan.

Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary for the Navy-Energy, Installation, and Environment, and Miranda A.A. Ballentine, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installation, Environment, and Energy, later sat with Inos for a 15-minute briefing with reporters.

Inos said the meeting discussed key concerns in the CNMI, including the military's Divert Initiative, particularly a "hybrid" plan that the military continues to push.

According to the governor, "there is still a lot of resistance" to the military proposal of establishing a divert airfield on both Saipan and Tinian.

"There is still a lot of resistance from stakeholders and more dialogues are still needed," Inos said.

McGinn stressed that one of the main goals of the trip to the CNMI is for officials to look at the proposed military sites in the Commonwealth.

"But we do consider some of the concerns discussed by the governor. We will continue to consider these cultural, environmental, and socio-economic concerns," McGinn said.

The ocular visit, the official said, is also "to check on the troops on the ground."

For Ballentine, the visit to the CNMI affirms the importance of "ongoing communications" between the military and the CNMI government.

Ballantine said the meeting is a way for officials to get as much information as they can on some of the major plans for the CNMI.

"From an Air Force's perspective, this is a way for us to look at how we can balance security needs with that of the CNMI's concerns" Ballantine said.

Ranking officials from the military's Pacific forces were also at hand: Maj. Gen. Michael Dana from Pacific Command, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, Brig. Gen. Steven Basham from Pacific Air Forces, and Craig Whelden, executive director of Marine Forces Pacific.

### Sex offender placed under house arrest

>> Defendant allowed to post \$50K property bond

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A sex offender who has been

detained since being arrested in October 2014 for allegedly sexually abusing a 15-year-old boy was allowed yesterday to post a \$50,000 property bond.

At a bail modification hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo placed the 53-year-old Jose Al-

taster Early

bert Santos under house arrest.

Govendo found Santos' sister, Brenda S. Aguon, and her husband, William Aguon, suitable as third-party custodians.

The judge ordered Brenda Aguon to supervise Santos at all

Govendo prohibited Santos from leaving the house unless to meet with his attorney and his

doctor for mental competency determination.

No children are allowed at the house while Santos is there. Govendo said.

A status conference will be held on July 21, 2015 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato, counsel for Santos, asked the court to modify the \$50,000 cash bail the court earlier

imposed and allow Santos to post a 1,763-square-meter property.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Folley opposed the motion, saying that Santos poses a danger to minors.

Sato recently asked the court to appoint a psychiatrist to evaluate Santos' current mental state for competency. The court granted the motion but Santos has yet to be evaluated.

In October 2014, police arrested Santos for two counts of sexual assault in the first degree, police said.

two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, two counts of indecent exposure in the second degree, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

The boy alleged that Santos had been sexually abusing him since September 2014 and would give him \$2 to \$10 after each incident.

Santos pleaded guilty to sex abuse of a child in March 1998, and is a registered sex offender,

### Hundreds expected to make pilgrimage up Mt. Tapochau

Everything is in readiness for today's Good Friday trek up Mt. Tapochau, when hundreds of people make the trek up the mountain to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

The walk to the highest point on Saipan will start off at 6:30am today, after the cross is taken down from Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Susupe at 4:30am.

Santa Soledad Parish priest Fr. Isaac Ayuyu said the members of the council of Santa Soledad will be going to Mt. Carmel Cathedral to prepare the cross and escort it to the base of Mt. Tapochau.

Ayuyu said they will have an opening prayer at the base of the mountain before the cross is carried to the top of the mountain.

"Youth of the parish will be doing the Stations of the Cross. Before erecting the cross, they will venerate the cross. Prior to that we will have a concluding prayer. We will recall the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross who cares for us, deeply loves us, and forgives us of our sins. I call on the people to start praying, loving, and forgiving each other."

There will be 13 Stations of the Cross along the road up to Mt. Tapochau, with 14th being the cross itself that will be carried to the top.

The Holy Week will conclude on Sunday with a sunrise Mass at 5am on Mt. Tapochau. (Jayson Camacho)



### **COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPOR P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR MOWER TO ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

> **INVITATION FOR BID** CPA-IFB -005-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor Mower for the Benjamin T. Managlona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package is available beginning March 20, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor. Arrival Building. Sainan

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: "Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-005-15. CONFI-

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 10, 2015. Bid opening will occur after this date/time at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor - Departures Building.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to <a href="mailto:atudela@cpa.gov.mp">atudela@cpa.gov.mp</a> (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than April 03rd, 2015. **Any question or** clarification will not be entertained after April 03rd, 2015. Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MarvAnn Q. Lizama **Executive Director** 

Some items not discountable / Sale items not included (Lumber, Building Materials, Water pump, Water Heater and etc.)

The Helpful Place!

Except Sale Items

Cash and Carry
 Some items not discountable
 In stock merchandise only

We accept major credit cards

• Delivery charge \$10.00

STIHL

LOCATIONS - Saipan & Rota

Mattress/foundation.

Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor,

Generator, Pressure Washer, Bed sets &

# Young professionals learn the benefits of diversity



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals Committee have their picture taken after a presentation by Dr. Laura Souder and her husband, Dr. Samuel Betances, on Wednesday evening, April 1, in the conference room of the Chamber office at Marianas Business Plaza.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted its first event for its Young Professionals Committee, a presentation on the benefits of diversity in the CNMI and the workplace.

Chairperson Mable Ayuyu arranged the free presentation by Dr. Laura Souder and her husband, Dr. Samuel Betances, on Wednesday evening, April 1, in the conference room of the Chamber office at Marianas Business Plaza.

The couple owns a company called Souder, Betances & Associates. They offer diversity training and consulting. This year, Drs. Souder and Betances spoke at the "My Youth, My Island" Confer-

ence in Palau to provide inspiration to the youth. One of Dr. Souder's most notable works is a book titled *Daughters of the Island: Contemporary Chamorro Women Organizers*, which was published by the University Press of America in 1992.

Approximately 33 young professionals were in attendance to learn about culture and diversity in the CNMI and in the workplace.

Bobby Cruz, program coordinator for the English Language Arts Department for the Public School System, was instrumental in arranging this event for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. (SCC)



Tel. 233-1530 / 1531 • Fax 233-1532



Mariana Resort & Spa

April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Early Childhood Month

By JAYSON CAMACHO jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Lawmakers joined stakeholders in proclaiming April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Early Childhood Month last Wednesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Advocates said it is important for the community to understand the growth of children by recognizing the importance of early learning, early

literacy, and to celebrate the teachers, caregivers, and policymakers that bring early childhood education to young children.

Jolene Guerrero and Rose Skilling of CNMI Head Start Program read the proclamation for Early Childhood Month that includes Week of the Young Child to run from April 12 to 18.

"Early childhood is an important period for children's learning. What they learn during these years plays an important role in their development. Early childhood education typically focuses on five domains: cognition, physical development, physical and emotional development, language and literacy, and approaches to learning," Skilling said.

Skilling said an important process for this is family engagement. "Families are the first and lifelong educators for their children. It is important childhood programs and families to build relationships to support the development of their children."

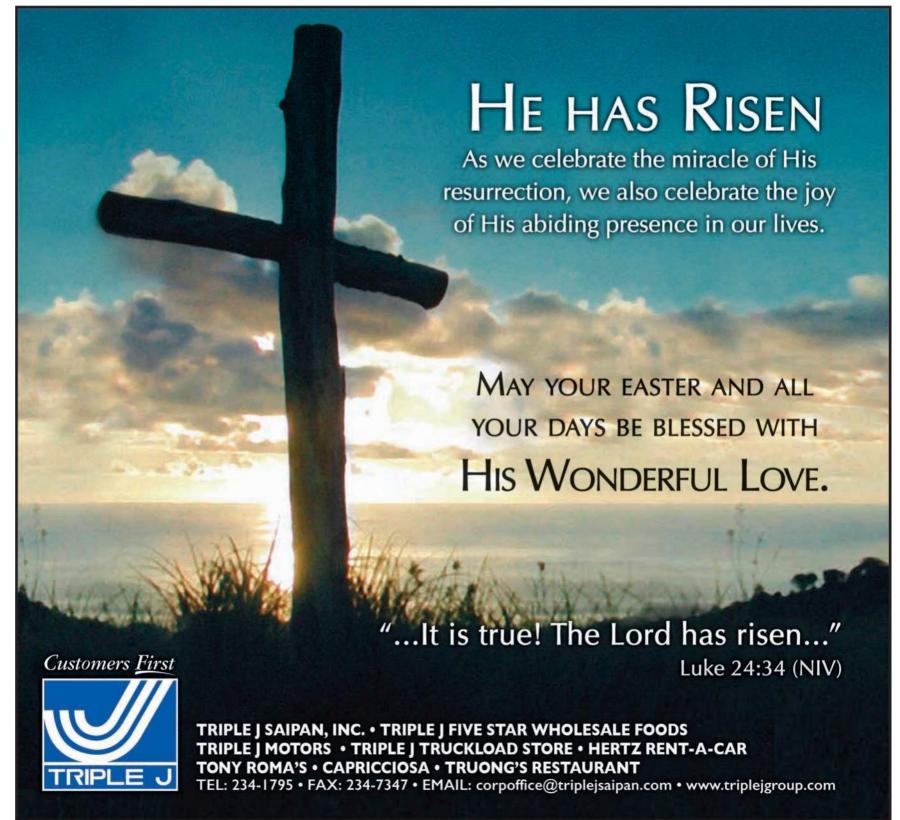
Guerrero said the Week of the Young Child focuses on the quality of educational and developmental services from birth to age 8.

Joining the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services staff during the proclamation were Oleai Elementary School teachers and students, who read the proclamation.

"Every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, secured, and protected from verbal, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, exploitation and neglect. It is the responsibility of our society to protect and promote every child's rights," the students read.

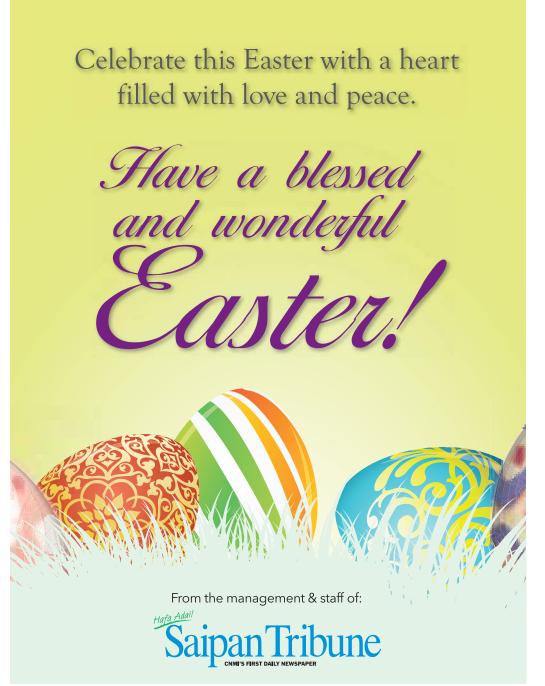
"Child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making every family safe, secure, and the support needed to raise their children in a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment. Free of domestic violence, abuse and neglect, the CNMI's children will grow to fulfill their potential as our future leaders," they said.

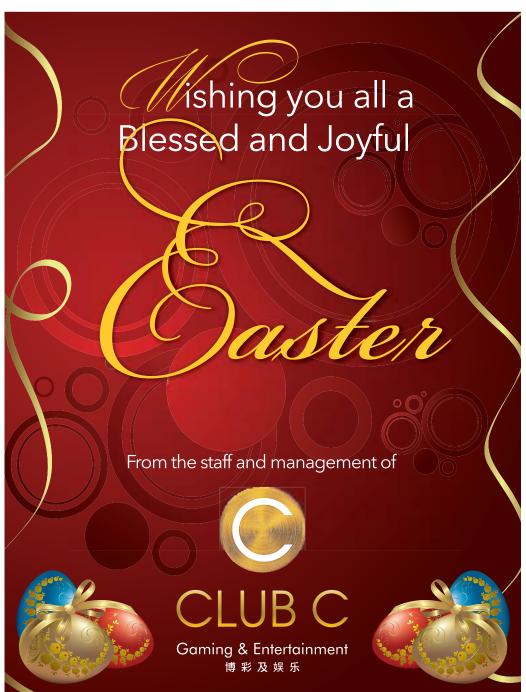
A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com





SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2015 **9** 







10 FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Opinion**



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### **EDITORIAL**

# Court ruling shows hazy high school freedom

lmost half a century ago, in a case involving students who wore black armbands to protest the Vietnam War, the Supreme Court proclaimed that schoolchildren don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." This week the court declined to hear a case from California that would have offered an opportunity to reaffirm that principle.

In 2010, some students at Live Oak High School near San Jose wore shirts with the American flag to school on Cinco de Mayo. An assistant principal was told by a student that "there might be problems" as a result. (A year earlier, Mexican-American students had reacted with profanity and threats when some white students hung a makeshift American flag and chanted "USA.")

At the direction of the principal, the students were told to either turn their shirts inside out or take them off. Two students who refused were told to go home.

To a Latino student—particularly an immigrant—an assertive display of the American flag by a classmate on Cinco de Mayo might be offensive. But some students might also have been offended by the anti-Vietnam armbands. Both displays are forms of free speech.

The students who wore the flag shirts sued the Morgan Hill Unified School District, claiming their 1st and 14th Amendment rights had been violated. But the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected their claim, holding that the possibility of an "altercation" justified the decision to order the students to remove or hide their shirts.

Many parents probably would endorse that "better safe than sorry" reasoning. But it's hard to square with the Supreme Court's stirring support for student speech in Tinker vs. Des Moines School District, the 1969 armband decision. As lawyers for the Live Oak students pointed out in a petition to the Supreme Court, the officials' actions were a response not to a clear threat of disruption but rather to "unrealized and unarticulated student unrest." What's more, the officials gave a "heckler's veto" to students who might have been offended by the American flag shirts.

These are serious arguments. The Supreme Court's refusal to consider them is another sign that it's ambivalent about the principle of student free speech it enshrined in 1969 but has whittled away at in subsequent rulings.

In a concurring opinion in one of those cases, Justice Clarence Thomas complained that "we continue to distance ourselves from Tinker, but we neither overrule it nor offer an explanation of when it operates and when it does not. I am afraid that our jurisprudence now says that students have a right to speak in schools except when they don't."

Although we believe the court should have taken this case to reaffirm Tinker, we agree with Thomas that school administrators everywhere are entitled to clarity from the court about what the 1st Amendment requires inside the schoolhouse gate.

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times



# How Facebook is becoming the Wal-Mart for news

**By PAUL FORD**LOS ANGELES TIMES

s reported last week in *The New York Times*, Facebook may start directly hosting the content of various news websites, starting with *The New York Times, BuzzFeed* and *National Geographic*. What this means for Internet users is that instead of seeing a summary of an article on Facebook, clicking, reading it on the publisher's website, then coming back to Facebook to discuss the article, you'll just read the whole thing right on Facebook—which will share the advertising revenue it generates from managing the publishers' articles. What this means in the larger sense is that the Internet will become more centralized.

In the early days of the Internet, websites were individual islands of words and images, connected via hypertext links. Anyone who wanted to could set up a website and start publishing. Publishers managed their own content and websites, sold advertising space to advertisers, and subscriptions to subscribers. Readers consumed content by navigating directly to the home pages of their favorite sites, probably by typing out URLs.

Now, although it's still possible to set up a website and start publishing, there's little money in that. Readers are abandoning home pages; they decide what they want to read by seeing what their friends have recommended on Twitter or Facebook. Huge social networks get the traffic, and advertisers follow.

Social media hasn't been all bad for publishers. On the contrary, there's a natural dependency between these platforms and the news media because the former have traffic and the latter have content—that is, a large audience and something for that audience to discuss. Social media platforms can reach hundreds of millions of people, very quickly, and news travels organically, from friend to friend.

And this is how we come to the current state of change. Facebook, with its 1.4 billion users, represents growth to publishers. Media companies are in a bind. They can either build their own platforms, which requires acquiring Silicon Valley-quality engineering and product talent, then coming up with product ideas—ideas that can yield 10 or 100 times the audience growth—or they can partner with giant companies that already manage huge global audiences.

The idea that the people who create our news content will be working, at least partially, within the strictures of Facebook is unsettling. Facebook is a software company. Its most valuable employees are not editors but product managers who manage software that in turn manages massive databases of human relationships. And because some news is going to perform better on Facebook than other news, media companies may change the kind of news they produce in order to get more revenue out of their Facebook relationship. That doesn't mean viral lists will wholly replace investigative journalism, necessarily, just that if cute pandas pay the bills, reporters will work those cute pandas.

But these sorts of relationships have always existed in publishing between publishers, advertisers, syndication partners, newstands and, ultimately, readers. History shows that influence over news can be very dynamic and very subtle.

What's novel is that, in Facebook, there is this one truly massive entity several orders of magnitude larger than any other large media company. It's a little like when the Bell System owned all of our phones and lines, and to communicate in America you needed to lease a landline from the phone company. It's also a little like the Apple App Store, where the cost of getting your software onto an iPhone or iPad is going through an Apple approval process and kicking a percentage back to Apple. And this Facebook deal with publishers might also be a little like when Wal-Mart began its massive expansion and began to squeeze its suppliers for every penny. The upside was that Bentonville, Ark., got an airport, China got a lot of manufacturing contracts and Americans got a lot of cheap sneakers and plastic jugs of sweetened tea. The downside was felt by Wal-Mart employees—who are badly paid—and local businesses.

When you decide to read your content on Facebook instead of on the publisher's website, when you decide to look for a free content option instead of subscribing, you're making the same kind of choice that people make when they go to Wal-Mart to buy the cheapest possible TV. This is not to say that you are a bad person—I use Facebook and I happily shop at big-box stores like Wal-Mart—just that you are, actually, making a choice.

Unless everyone decides to start paying for news again, or advertisers decide that a Web reader on a newspaper's website is as valuable as a print reader, Facebook is going to be a newspaper for millions of people. That's just the reality. The best we can hope for is more transparency—more information about how stories find their way to us, the readers. This would be valuable not simply because the news is, ultimately, a public trust as well as a commercial product, but because Facebook is one too.

Paul Ford is a writer and technologist who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. He is writing a book of essays about web pages. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** 

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting

published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

### Weekends

Tere's an old-school management tip: "Don't work on weekends. If you have to complete your chores, work longer hours during the week."

I'm not trying to sell that tip, by the way. I'm just saying that it's been around a long time. How long? Before we had

Like much old-school wisdom, the mere act of thinking about it can be useful, even if you don't buy into the idea itself. So we can kick the tires from a lifestyle standpoint on this weekend thing. After all, not even paradise guarantees escape from office work.

Most managers understand that big projects or occasional situations can, and will, gobble up their weekends. Furthermore, people who run professional practices are often used to working on weekends, but that's a different context than the basic 9-to-5 M-F office routine that's the context here.

As for the 9-to-5 grind, I think the tip can inspire us to tighten up the work flow.

For example, in my corporate days, I used to put off annoying tasks. I allowed them to accumulate while telling myself I'd clear the logiam on some magic Saturday morning.

As a result, I spent many Saturday mornings in the office, cleaning up administrative chores that really should have been done over Did I mind? No.

Was this the right approach? Well, no again.

Looking back on those mornings, I think they were a way to kick the can down the road instead of either shedding tasks, or hiring more help, to improve things.

Of course, some people just want to hang out at the office anyway. I remember when color printers were just hitting the corporate scene. One guy in our company spent two entire weekends reformatting an internal report so that a bunch of useless graphs could be showcased in colorful glory. Oh, joy.

My pals and I eventually cooked up the occasional midweek event to clear away the boring administrative chores that were always accumulating: we'd commit to the occasional late-night pizza party in the office. This was pretty much like studying for midterms in a college dorm. The comradeship of shared tedium made things a lot easier to endure.

True, this wasn't the perfect approach, but it was a lot better than counting on magic Saturday mornings.

The bigger issue here is one of basic time management. This is a two-edged sword. Looking back on the zigs and zags of work, I have to admit that when things went well, it was largely due to good time management. And when things weren't going so well, I think it was due to less-than-good time management.

### By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



Well, so far, so simple, but here's my theory: Things seem to work on a 10-year delay. So our situations today are largely a function of how we were using our time a decade ago. That's either encouraging or discouraging. Take your pick.

One grand promise of modern technology is that it allows managers to be more efficient with their time. Well, I wouldn't argue with that, but I might ask if anyone has weighed a counterbalancing factor, namely, that when technology went from being a mere tool to being an entire lifestyle, many old-school notions of time management flew out the window. Is modern technology a time saver, or a time sucker? If we tallied the score, I think we'd have a lot of marks in both columns.

Now, if you'll excuse me, it's Friday, so I have to get ready for the weekend. If you need to find me on Saturday or Sunday, it will be easy: I'll be at my desk.

# Carnival: Situational poverty

he apparent carnival culture that skips issues that matter in favor of trivia is a tale why nothing has worked in these isles for nearly four decades.

This is reinforced by the short memories people have of bad experiences in recent past. This doesn't bode well with the vision to rebuild paradise into a decent venue for our people where opportunities abound.

The combined negligence has forced situational poverty throughout the archipelago. How do simple villagers deal with stagnant wages and salaries of more than 10 years while the cost of basic goods skyrockets? I've looked into tinted cars and it isn't there!

Is it really hard understanding that policy dictates the quality of life anywhere in the world? The CNMI isn't an exception! What have you undertaken to bring forth a set of plans and constructive policies to aid growth and development? Or is this too heavy a task that would enable the elected elite to secure a clearer vision of what must be done forthwith?

With your carnival attitude you're only affirming it's perfectly fine for the multitude to live like shipwrecks, holding unto driftwood in the open sea with hopeful prayers to see land amidst towering fatal waves. Aren't you captains of this canoe? Or are you also playing dangerous marbles on the deck? This situational poverty requires serious review now!

Isn't the single most egregious issue the deepening mess revolving around the economy? Isn't it true that the CNMI can't pay CHC's utility bills nor is it fiscally capable of settling its \$29 million debt with the agency? Isn't it true that there are other obligations, e.g., \$40 million for CHC operations, \$42 million for PSS, \$29 million for the Settlement Find for fiscal year 2016, and other towering fiscal obligations? And you're worried sick of tinted car windows? About the only saving grace today is the accrual system that permits eating projected revenues in advance of their actual collection. How many pay periods have been advanced so far? The term progress supposes that the present is better than the past. However, it seems unfortunate that it's the complete reverse here! Call it situational abject poverty hailing from persistent negligence by the elected elite!

### At ground level

I'd visit some of our elderly if only to listen to their time-honored wisdom in humility and the generous patience with which they speak their mind with dignity.

One of them said, "Iku, everything that is happening today have all been written in the Holy Bible. It includes familial feud and disunity, ugly arguments where everybody is talking and nobody's listening, or inference thrown out the window.'

An auntie said, "The huge rocks sticking out of the water around cliff lines have been there for hundreds of years and someday would disappear from daily wave action. The powerful waves of change would turn our rock into grains of sand at the bottom of the deep blue. We would have lost it all."

Tun Jose was also thoughtful but a bit more conciliatory: "Change of tradition is inevitable but I do hope that our children would carry with them the spirit of what made us uniquely different from all the

Both of my elderly had me thinking quietly when I returned home at dusk. To be turned into a grain of sand in the deep blue and the loss of indigenous spirit is too high a price to dismiss as inconsequential. But I'm hopeful too that our indigenous spirit reigns strong

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



and immoveable among our young people. They will carry the torch of leadership.

Occasionally, it's good to return to ground level if only to listen to the true voices of the simple folks at home. I'm especially fond of the words of wisdom of the elderly. It brings a sense of humility of how little I know as a boastful grasshopper.

### Trouble in paradise

At the ground level, I also had the opportunity to listen to families who hardly make ends meet while dealing with paying the first family home, car, and other filial obligations.

The situation had families juggling what's left in the paycheck versus federal help like food stamps and healthcare. It forces a situation to critically count pennies to see if the family income is anywhere near the threshold where program disqualification kicks in. The loss is larger than accepting an increase in salaries. So the thing to do is ask to forego any form of salary increase.

It's infuriating a decision but only they know what they had to deal with, not me. Only they know what's behind the door, not this son of Metformin. I'm basically dumbfounded but, again, only they know real time familial situations. Whatever happened to paradise?

# 3 factors that make Indiana's religion law different from other states'

he Indiana statute is the culmination of a long, murky legal history that reaches back to the 1990 Supreme Court case Employment Division v. Smith, which significantly changed the standard interpretation of the First Amendment's free exercise clause. At issue was whether a Native American group could use peyote in religious rituals in violation of an Oregon law. The court ruled that it could not—because the state law was "neutral," in that it was not motivated by a desire to curtail religious rights, and because it applied to everyone in the state.

Legal precedent prior to 1990 dictated that the government could substantially burden a person's practice of his or her religion only if its action was necessary to achieve a compelling government purpose. But in Smith, the court established that the free exercise clause could not be used to challenge a neutral law of general applicability no matter how much the law burdened religion.

So, before Smith, a priest in a dry county who wanted to use wine in communion surely would have prevailed in court. After Smith, he would have lost because the law prohibiting consumption of alcohol was a neutral law of general applicability.

In 1993, Congress, with strong bipartisan support, passed and President Clinton signed the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Its stated goal was to restore religious freedom by statute to what it previously had been under the Constitution. The law provides that whenever the government substantially burdens religion, even with a neutral law of general applicability, its action is illegal unless proven to be necessary to achieve a compelling

government interest.

The next development came in 1997, when the Supreme Court declared the act unconstitutional as applied to state and local governments because it exceeded the scope of Congress' power. But the law remained constitutional as applied to the federal government, and was the basis for the court's decision last June in Burwell v. Hobby Lobby. In that case, the court held, 5 to 4, that it violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to require a closely held corporation to provide contraceptive coverage if that contradicted its owners' religious beliefs.

The new Indiana law has the same title and contains the same language as the federal statute. Like the federal law, the Indiana version provides: "A governmental entity may substantially burden a person's exercise of religion only if the governmental entity demonstrates that application of the burden to the person: (1) is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest; and (2) is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest."

But the Indiana and federal statutes are not wholly identical. The Indiana law, unlike the federal RFRA, builds on Hobby Lobby by expressly providing protection to corporations and other business entities. That's one reason to worry that the purpose of the Indiana law is to allow discrimination against same-sex couples based on business owners' religious beliefs.

Another reason for concern is timing. Why is Indiana adopting the law now, 25 years after Employment Division v. Smith and 22 years

### By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY Los Angeles Times

Frwin Chemerinsky is dean of the University of

California, Irvine School of Law. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



consensus across the political spectrum that the Supreme Court is about to recognize a right to marriage equality for gays and lesbians and hold that state laws prohibiting same-sex marriage violate the Constitution. This law appears to be a reaction to that development. The rhetoric surrounding the Indiana law is also troubling. In

after the enactment of the federal statute? There is a widespread

fact, over and over in his interviews, Pence has refused to deny that the law would permit discrimination. He also was emphatic that there would be no expansion of rights for gays and lesbians on his "watch."

This is why there are loud protests against the Indiana law and calls for boycotts of the state. But Indiana could easily solve this controversy by amending the law to provide that no one can discriminate against others based on sexual orientation, sex or race under the statute or on the grounds of religious beliefs.

**12** FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# The Weather

### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.





East winds 10 to 20 mph. **▲ 87° ▼75°** 





**₹75°** 

Partly cloudy with

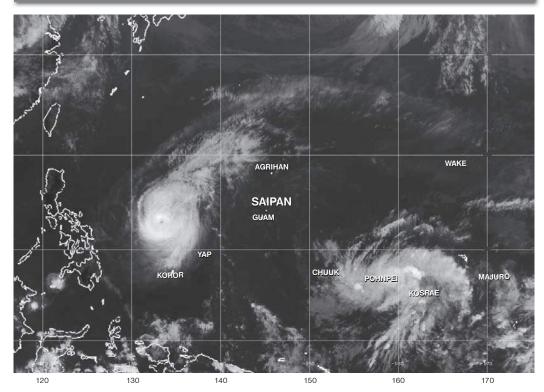
isolated showers.

**▲ 87° ₹75°** 

### Yesterday's Satellite Image

**▲ 87°** 

**▼75°** 



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Maysak (04W) is centered about 380 miles northwest of Yap near 13N134E with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph and moving west-northwestward at 9 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms are concentrated within 160 miles of the center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring farther out from the center between 8N and 17N from 132E to 137E. For additional information on typhoon Maysak see warnings issued by The Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by The National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A near-equatorial trough reaches northeastward from EQ155E to a tropical disturbance centered west of Kosrae near 5N160E, then turns southeastward to end at EQ179E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Pohnpei and Kosrae between 4N and 9N from 155E to 167E, within 120 miles of a line from EQ160E to 4N164E and the Marshall Islands within 180 miles of a line from 5N172E to 4N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/quam/

	Micronesia		
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	<b>≜</b> 85	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	<b>≜</b> 88	<b>▼</b> 78
Yap	Cloudy	<b>≜</b> 86	₹77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	<b>≜</b> 86	<b>▼</b> 79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	<b>≜</b> 86	₹77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 85	₩80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 84	▼82

Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	<u> </u> 85	₩80
Majuro Mostly Cloudy		<b>▲</b> 84	▼82
Ar	ound the Glob	e	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 76	▼ 47
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 63	▼ 41
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	<b>▲</b> 78	<b>▼</b> 72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 84	<b>▼</b> 70
London	Showers	<b>▲</b> 50	₩46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 78	₹57
Manila	Sunny	<b>▲</b> 96	<b>▼</b> 73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 67	₩46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	<b>≜</b> 83	<b>▼</b> 70
New York	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 62	₹53
Osaka	Rain	<b>▲</b> 73	₩49
Paris	Showers	<b>▲</b> 52	₩46
Pusan	Rain	<b>▲</b> 67	▼ 47
Rome	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 68	▼ 51
Salem	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 59	<b>▼</b> 36
San Francisco	Sunny	<b>▲</b> 69	₹49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 65	₹45
Tokyo	Windy	<b>▲</b> 71	₹58
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 71	<b>▼</b> 60



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■ \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

	Ti	ides	
Saipan Harbo	or		
2:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

	<b>Sunrise/Sunset</b>	
Today	6:12 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM

M	loonrise/Moonse	et
Today	5:33 PM	5:11A M
Saturday	6:20 PM	5:49 AM
Sunday	7:08 PM	6:29 AM
Monday	7:57 PM	7:09 AM
Tuesday	8:48 PM	7:52 AM

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	FLIG	HT S	CHEDULE	AS OF	APRI	L 2, 2	015
	DEP	ARTUF	RES		A	RRIVAL	.S
SAIPAN-G	UAM (GUN	VI)		GUAM (GU	M)-SAIP	AN	
UA5070 UA5068 UA5068 UA5039 UA5078 UA5038 UA5040 UA5078 UA5044	8:00am 8:40am 2:15pm 3:05pm 3:05pm 6:55pm 8:35pm	3:55pm 3:55pm 7:45pm	Daily 3 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 6, 7 via Rota 1, 5 2, 4 1, 5 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 1, 5	UA5069 UA5071 UA5071 UA5039 UA5038 UA5077 UA5041 UA5077 UA5043	5:35pm	2:35pm	Daily 3 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 6, 7 2, 4 via Rota 1, 5 1, 5 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 1, 5
SAIPAN-R	OTA (ROP	)		GUAM (GU		, ,	
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038		1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (RO	P)-GUAM	(GUM)		ROTA (ROF	P)-SAIPA	N	
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-P	ALAU (RO	R)		PALAU (RC	R)-SAIP	AN	
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-N	ARITA (NR	RT)		NARITA (N	RT)-SAIP	AN	
DL287 DL297	6:05am 4:20pm	8:45am 7:10pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 Daily	DL298 DL288	10:25am 8:55pm	2:55pm 1:25am+1	Daily 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-S	EOUL (ICN	۱)		SEOUL (IC	N)-SAIPA	\N	
OZ626 OZ626 7C3403 7C3403 OZ624 7C3401 7C3401	2:50am 4:35am 5:25am 3:30pm 4:20pm	6:00am 6:30am 8:20am 9:10am 6:55pm 8:05pm 9:10pm	1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 3, 4 Daily 1, 2, 4, 7 3, 5, 6	OZ623 7C3402 7C3402 OZ625 OZ625 7C3404	8:50am 9:30am 10:55am 7:40pm 8:15pm 10:10pm	2:20pm 3:20pm 4:25pm 1:10am+1 1:45am+1 3:40am+1	Daily 1, 2, 4, 7 3, 5, 6 7 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Daily
SAIPAN-B	,	,		BUSAN (Pl	JS)-SAIP	AN	
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-S	HANGHAI	(PVG)		SHANGHA	I (PVG)-S	SAIPAN	
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-B	EIJING (PI	EK)		BEIJING (P	EK)-SAII	PAN	
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-G	UANGZHO	OU (CAN)		GUANGZH	OU (CAN	)-SAIPAN	
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-N	IANILA (MI	NL)		MANILA (M	INL)-SAII	PAN	
				`			

### 31 OZ626/701 2:20am 11:05am 1 via ICN OZ626/701 2:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 11:05am UA5070/191 4:15am 8:55am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM UA5070/PR111 4:15am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA5070/183 4:15am 2, 5 via GUM 8:50pm UA5070/183 4:15am 9:10pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM DL287/275 6:05am 9:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/183 8:00am 9:10pm 3 via GUM 8:40am 8:50pm UA5068/183 2. 5 via GUM UA5068/183 8:40am 9:10pm 1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 2:15pm 9:10pm 6, 7 via Rota-GUM UA5038/183 3:05pm 8:50pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 3:05pm 8:50pm 5 via GUM UA5078/183 3:05pm 9:10pm 1 via GUM UA5038/183 4 via GUM 3:05pm 9:10pm OZ624/703 3:30pm 10:45pm Daily via ICN

OZ626/721         2:20am         11:50am         1 via ICN           OZ626/721         2:50am         11:50am         2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN           UA5070/179         4:15am         9:55pm         1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM           UA5068/179         8:00am         9:55pm         3 via GUM           UA5068/179         8:40am         9:55pm         1, 5, 6 via GUM           UA5039/179         2:15pm         9:55pm         6 via Rota-GUM           UA5078/179         3:05pm         9:55pm         1, 5 via GUM           OZ624/749         3:30pm         11:00pm         Daily via ICN	SAIPAN-HC	NG KON	IG (HKG)	
UA5068/179 8:40am 9:55pm 1, 5, 6 via GUM UA5039/179 2:15pm 9:55pm 6 via Rota-GUM UA5078/179 3:05pm 9:55pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ626/721 UA5070/179	2:50am 4:15am	11:50am 9:55pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
	UA5068/179 UA5039/179 UA5078/179	8:40am 2:15pm 3:05pm	9:55pm 9:55pm 9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM 6 via Rota-GUM 1, 5 via GUM

	•		•
MANILA (M	NL)-SAII	PAN	
OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
HONG KON	G (HKG	-SAIPAN	

П	HONG KO	NG (HKG	)-SAIPAN	
	OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
	UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
	UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
	UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern, UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana, 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue, Wed,	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed,
		Thu, Fri, Sat	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed,
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO	CAIDAR	J
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	DEPARTURE		FREQUENCY
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed,
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed,
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

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### **CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 12-18**

# Explore unlimited possibilities at your library

This week, the NMI State Library System, which consists of Saipan's Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Rota's Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Public Library, and the Tinian Municipal Public Library joins libraries in schools, campuses, and communities nationwide in celebrating National Library Week, a time to highlight the changing role of libraries, librarians, and library workers.

Libraries today are more than warehouses for books. Instead, libraries and librarians are change agents within their communities—transforming lives through innovative education resources and forward-thinking programming. Libraries are doing their part to close the digital divide and level the playing field by providing free access to information and technologies that many in their communities would be hard pressed to find elsewhere. Libraries help to ensure the American dream and promote democracy by providing service to all regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status.

Librarians work with elected officials, small business owners, students, and the public at large to discover and meet the needs of their communities. Whether through offering e-books and technology classes, materials for English-language learners, programs for job seekers or offering a safe haven in times of a place of unlimited possibilicrisis, librarians listen to the community they serve, and they respond.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library serves the community of Saipan by providing access to books, magazines, electronic databases, and technology. The Children of Our Homeland Bookmobile serves children and teens at several public elementary and middle schools, as well as village youth centers and the DYS Juvenile Detention Center. The library offers read-alouds and crafts, family movies, volunteer opportunities for teens, and the Page Turners Teen Book Club. It also offers an extensive collection of Pacific resources-local historical and indigenous cultural artifacts to support personal and academic research about the region.

ties," said JKPL Technical Services librarian Rosalyn Ajoste. "Whatever your interest or need, the library and the library staff are here to provide you the resources you need to accomplish your goals and dreams."

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Public Library, and Tinian Municipal Public Library are celebrating National Library Week by offering amnesty on overdue books and fines (some restrictions apply), book sales with reduced prices and additional selections, Free Library Card Replacement Day, Open House, Read-Alouds and Crafts, and family movies. In addition, the libraries celebrate National Library Workers Day and National Bookmobile Day the same week.

First sponsored in 1958, Na-

tional Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.

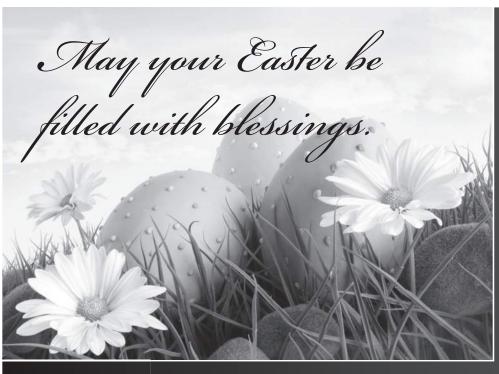
For more information, visit the Joeten-Kivu Public Library in Susupe, or call 235-READ (7323) or (7322). Library hours on Saipan are Tuesday to Friday (10am-6pm) and Saturday (9am-4pm); JKPL is closed on Sundays and Mondays. On Tinian, call 433-0504/05. The Tinian Public Library is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm and 9am to 12pm on Saturday. On Rota, call 532-7328/29. Rota Public Library is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and from 9am to 12pm on Saturdays. Visit the state libray's website at www.marianaslibrary.org for more information. (JKPL)

### "The library has always been Notice to all Prior Service beneficiaries

All Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries whose monthly benefit checks are allotted to Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Back of Saipan, First Hawaiian Bank, Forcht Bank-(Somerset KY), and Wells Fargo Bank-(Lynnwood, WA):

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Stop by our office to pick up a questionnaire or call to inform us of your Post Office mailing address so we can mail it to you. Our office's physical location is at Quarters No. 1201, Isleta Court, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. If you have any questions, call our office at (670) 322-9753 from 8am to 12pm and from 1pmto 4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. (PSTF)



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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com) or Call 234-2585/235-9020

## Japan's imperial couple, 3 presidents to meet in Palau

The presidents of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands will visit Palau next month when the Imperial couple travels to a scene of fierce fighting during World War II, the Imperial Household Agency said Wednesday.

The Imperial couple is scheduled to visit Palau on April 8 and 9, where they will console the spirits of Japan's war dead and seek to build friendship between the nations. According to the itinerary announced

Wednesday by the agency, the presidents of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands will also attend services on Peleliu Island for fallen soldiers.

Since ascending to the throne, the Imperial couple have regularly made "visits to console the spirits of the war dead."

The Emperor and Empress contemplated visiting the three Pacific nations and the Northern Mariana Islands — a U.S. terri-

dropped due to issues regarding accommodation facilities and transportation constraints. Eventually, the Imperial couple visited only Saipan, an island in the Northern Marianas, in 2005. This time, at the invitation of Palau's government, the presidents of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands also will come to meet the Emperor and Empress.

According to the agency, the Imperial couple will leave tory — in 2003, but the plan was Haneda Airport in Tokyo on the

morning of April 8 on a private chartered flight. After arriving in Palau that afternoon, they will attend a dinner with the three presidents and their wives. The couple will stay aboard the Japan Coast Guard's large patrol vessel Akitsushima that night. On the morning of April 9, a helicopter of the Akitsushima will fly the Imperial couple to Peleliu Island, where about 12,000 Japanese and U.S. soldiers died during a fierce battle. The three presidential couples will accompany the Imperial couple as they offer prayers at a Japanese monument and a U.S.

monument for the war dead.

### **Accommodations at sea**

This will be the first time the Imperial couple stays aboard a patrol vessel at a visit destination.

"They have a very full schedule during the two days and one night they are in Palau, so we felt this option would allow them to smoothly fit in many events," an official of the agency said.

After spending the night aboard the Akitsushima, the Imperial couple will directly board a JCG helicopter and be flown to Peleliu Island.

The 6,500-ton Akitsushima is among the largest patrol vessels in the world. About 150 meters long and carrying two

helicopters, it was commissioned in November 2013. The Akitsushima has been involved in important missions including antipiracy operations in distant seas, and last year it played a key role in a crackdown on coral poaching by what appeared to be Chinese vessels in the Ogasawara Islands.

According to agency sources, the Imperial couple will stay in the captain's cabin. The vessel has steep stairs and its rooms are partitioned into many sections, and some rocking is likely while it is moored off the coast, so various adjustments have been made onboard to better accommodate the Imperial couple. (The Yomiuri Shimbun)

FHB.COM

## Dive shop settles ex-employee's suit for \$10K

A diving tour shop has agreed to pay \$10,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by its former employee, who alleged that the company did not pay him overtime and the hourly minimum wage.

Following the settlement agreement, plaintiff JSM Maras on Wednesday filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a no-

## HSC-25 rescues distressed

# swimmer in Guam

ASAN, Guam—Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 conducted a search-andrescue operation and recovered a distressed swimmer in the waters near Pagat Caves off the shores of Mangilao on March 30.

HSC-25 received a request from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam at approximately 2:25pm about a 29-year-old man who was swept out to sea in the vicinity of Pagat Caves.

Rescue 00, a Navy MH-60S helicopter, was launched from Andersen Air Force Base at approximately 2:45pm. The crew located the survivor at 3:35pm. He was then transported to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, where he was taken by ambulance to Guam Memorial Hospital for treatment.

HSC-25 has conducted seven searches, seven medical evacuations, two rescues, and one recovery effort this year.

"This responsibility that we have and the responsibility that we have to the people of the island of Guam is something that we take very seriously and it is very important that we do it safely and as responsibly as possible," said Lt. Harry Ehlies, aircraft commander. "Yesterday proves that we have been training properly and we are going in the right direction."

HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. As a part of Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Pacific, it provides an armed helicopter capability for U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet in support of logistics, search and rescue and humanitarian assistance missions.

HSC-25 is also the only squadron that maintains a 24-hour search-and-rescue and medical evacuation alert posture, directly supporting the U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. (Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)

tice of his intent to dismiss his lawsuit against Galaxy Companv Ltd., which owns the DPIS-Divers Paradise on Saipan.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the case on Wednesday but retained jurisdiction to enforce the deal.

Attorney Stephen Nutting, counsel for Maras, stated that the parties have reached a settlement, precluding the need for Galaxy Company to respond to the court action.

The signatories in the settlement agreement were Nutting and Maras, and attorney S. Joshua Berger and his client, Galaxy Company manager Seong Hoon Kwon.

Maras and Galaxy agreed that their deal is not an admission of liability of any kind by the company.

Maras sued Galaxy for unpaid wages and overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act.

In his lawsuit, Maras, a citizen of Chuuk, asked the court to hold Galaxy liable to pay him \$14,358.19 in unpaid and overtime compensation, plus damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Maras was employed by DPIS as a diver/helper/tank charger/cleaner from Aug. 16, 2013 to Oct. 4, 2014. (Ferdie de la Torre)

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PIC Saipan will close the POINT BREAK for annual maintenance starting on April 6 to April 27, 2015. We apologize for any inconvenience to our valued guests.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



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# NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE CNMI JOINT MILITARY TRAINING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The U.S. military announces the availability of the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) for public review. The Draft EIS/OEIS evaluates the potential impacts associated with the establishment of a series of live-fire ranges, training courses and maneuver areas in the CNMI (Tinian and Pagan) to reduce existing joint service training deficiencies and meet U.S. Pacific Command Service Components' unfilled unit and combined level training requirements in the Western Pacific. Existing military training areas and support facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI are insufficient to support U.S. military training requirements. U.S. military training capabilities and capacity improvements are needed in the CNMI to ensure that the U.S. military can meet their U.S. Code Title 10 requirements to maintain, equip, and train combat and humanitarian forces in the Western Pacific.

The publication of the Notice of Public Meetings in the Federal Register on April 3, 2015 initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment period for the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft EIS/OEIS. Comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS may be submitted during the 60-day public comment period starting on April 3, 2015 Hawaii Standard Time (HST) (April 4, 2015 Chamorro Standard Time [ChST]). Comments should be postmarked or received by June 2, 2015 HST (June 3, 2015 ChST). Government agencies, private-sector organizations, and the public are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process and public meetings for the Draft EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Marine Corps on behalf of U.S. Pacific Command will host public meetings on Saipan and Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the following public meetings:

### SAIPAN:

- Wednesday, April 29, 2015
   Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria
   5:00 PM 8:00 PM
- Friday, May 1, 2015
   Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria
   5:00 PM 8:00 PM

### TINIAN:

Thursday, April 30, 2015
 Tinian Junior Senior High School Cafeteria
 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Each meeting will begin with an open house session where the public can learn more about the proposed action and potential environmental impacts from project team members and subject matter experts. A public hearing will follow the open house. In the interest of available time, participants will be limited to three minutes to ensure all who wish to submit verbal comments have an opportunity to do so. A Chamorro and Carolinian interpreter will be available.

Concurrent with the NEPA process, the U.S. military is conducting National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation regarding potential effects of the proposed action on historic properties. During each of the above meetings, the U.S. military will hold NHPA Section 106 information sessions in a separate area where subject matter experts will explain the NHPA Section 106 process and solicit public input on the effects of the proposed action on historic properties.

There are three ways to submit written comments: (1) providing comments at one of the public meetings; (2) submitting comments through the project website: www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com; and (3) mailing comments postmarked by June 3, 2015 ChST to:

Mail comments to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific Attn: 09PA, Public Affairs Office 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100 JBPHH, HI 96860-3134



# COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

NMHC RFP 2015-003

(This ad is paid for by NMHC general funds)

### **Consulting Services for the NMHC's Garapan Annex Properties**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) are soliciting Request for Proposals from Qualified Consulting Service Firms to obtain a high quality report on the preliminary redevelopment of the existing Annex II subdivision, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal packets will be available on or after Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

Mandatory Pre-proposal conference is scheduled on April 15, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (local time) at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or via fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than April 17, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

All proposal submissions must be sealed, shall be marked "Confidential" and labeled "NMHC RFP 2015-003" and submit one (1) original and three (3) copies, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 24, 2015 (Friday), at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, P.O. Box 10008, Saipan, MP 96950. Selection of a proposer shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS Corporate Director Northern Marianas Housing Corporation /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director
Procurement and Supply

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

# Constitutional rights lawsuit is junked in favor of CBP officers

A final judgment on the pleadings was granted in favor of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer Dennis Jacobs and seven unnamed CBP officers in the lawsuit filed by a Chinese teacher who had accused them of denying her entry to Saipan on suspicion that she was pregnant. She claims she was handcuffed, her face slammed against the wall, and placed in isolation for 22 hours.

In Yu Min Zhao v. Dennis Jacobs, et al., Civil Case No. 1 3-00028 (D.N. Mar. I.), the plaintiff filed a Bivens lawsuit against the CBP officers, claiming that the officers violated her right to be free from excessive force and her right to equal protection during the immigration inspection process.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, on behalf of Jacobs, filed a motion arguing that Jacobs was entitled to a judgment in his favor because, even though he was named in the lawsuit, he was not accused of any wrongdoing. In fact, he was not present during the time of the allegations in the complaint. Further, CBP's inquiry into an alien's purpose for entering the NMI and

the detention and removal of an inadmissible alien (in this case, for indications of an intention to overstay the visa waiver) are part of CBP's duties under immigration laws.

Limitiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, "Bivens law permits federal employees to be sued in their personal capacities for actions

On Jan. I2, 20I5, the District Court for the NMI granted the judgment on all grounds. The court held that Jacobs was protected under the law as a federal employee because none of the allegations tied him to any constitutional violations. The court also found that the relief requested by the plaintiff—an injunction and a declaratory judgment—is barred under Bivens law. Ultimately, the court found that the true nature of the lawsuit was a challenge to CBP's determination of the plaintiff's inadmissibility to enter the NMI rather than constitutional violations, which is also not permitted under Bivens law.

The court gave the plaintiff an opportunity to amend her complaint, and she failed to do so. On March 20, 2015, the court entered a final judgment on all grounds in favor of Jacobs and the other unnamed officers.

According to Alicia A.G.

the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, "Bivens law permits federal employees to be sued in their personal capacities for actions taken during the course of their official duties. Protection of federal employees for legitimate actions performed in the course of their official duties is critical to the effectiveness of the federal government. As noted by the Supreme Court in Anderson v. Creighton, 483 U.S. 635 (1987), Bivens lawsuits exact substantial social costs, including 'expenses of litigation, the diversion of official energy from pressing public issues, and the deterrence of able citizens from acceptance of public office.' In cases such as this where the government demonstrates that legitimate actions were taken in the course of one's official duties and that the complaint against the individuals is without merit, dismissal is the appropriate and just remedy."

This case was defended by assistant U.S. attorneys Jessica F. Cruz and Mikel W. Schwab. (Saipan Tribune)

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### MCS PTO to hold Yard Sale

Mount Carmel School PTO will be having a Yard Sale on April 18, 2015, a Saturday, from 8am to 2pm, at the Mount Carmel Cathedral field. Everyone is welcome to participate in the Yard Sale, which will cost \$25 (cash only) per space. To reserve a space, RSVP with Joyce Pangelinan at 783-1026 or Tina Crisostimo at 285-7695 by April 10. Should you have any ques-

tions and/or concerns, contact us at the school or the PTO vice president, Luis Camacho, at 287-9753. *(PR)* 

### Transfer station, Marpi landfill closed today

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed today, April 3, 2015, in observance of Good Friday. Regular schedule will resume on Saturday, April 4, 2015, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from

12:30pm to 4pm. (**DPW**)

### Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "14NS" that the jury selection scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2015, at 8:30am in Courtroom 220A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Deputy Clerk Daisy Mendiola at Superior Court at 236-9769. (NMI Judiciary)

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Key Functions:

The Executive Assistant will help the Executive Officer and the President maintain organizational relationships and act as the main point of contact particularly for business partners and customers in and from China, as well as colleagues and peers in the local Chinese Community. The Executive Assistant should support the management of the President's time and calendar to ensure that the President is fully informed and prepared for all meetings with such stakeholders and to assist in organizing events. The Executive Assistant should be highly organized, able to multi-task and manage multiple time-sensitive demands, have exceptional inter-personal and communication skills and support the mission of the organization. This professional must possess a combination of strategic thinking skills and the demonstrated ability to implement and manage the daily logistical demands of a project centered staffs who work cross functionally to respond to the needs of the organization and its constituents.

Job Requirements:

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative type functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning is required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, April 17, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Name: Ana C. Castro Address: P.O. Box 501331 Phone: 234-1950

Pro Se,

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re the Matter ) FCD-GU
of the Petitioner For:) CIVIL ACTION
Appointment for ) NO. 15-0145
General Guardianship for )
Dennis C. Castro )
ORDER
By: ) SHORTENING
) TIME AND

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on April 9, 2015 at 10:30am in Courtroom 205A.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2015.

Granted

Ana C. Castro

Petitioner

/s/ Judge

) NOTICE OF

) HEARING

# Pacific Step-Up program names summer interns

By THOMAS MANGLONA II CORRESPONDENT

The National Institute of Diabe-

tes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' High School Short-Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons

### 12TH NMC FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

### Marianas Insurance donates \$10K as hole-in-one prize

higher education in the CNMI, Marianas Insurance Co. is sponsoring a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 12th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2015. The first lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's holes 7 or 13 at the West Course will win the \$10,000 prize.

"Advancing and garnering support for higher education is something we are very much committed to," said Marianas Foundation's efforts to enhance

composed of community volunteers committed to the advance-

The accepted students are Marianas High School's Noemi Caacbay, Maria Dizon, Roselyn Tanghal, You Na Lee, and Eloise Lopez. Kagman High School junior Sarah Kapileo was also selected among the pool of competitive applicants.

this summer.

program, commonly referred

to as Pacific STEP-UP, has se-

lected six high school student

interns for their program at the

Northern Marianas College

The program, funded by the NIDDK, is a rigorous eightweek paid summer research experience that immerses public high school juniors and seniors in hands-on science and practical laboratory experience. Students will receive \$1,000 for their participation in the program after the completion of official journal of the Interna- he program once again," she their research projects.

Dizon, a senior, and this year's CNMI-wide S.T.E.M bune that she is "honored to

be a part of a

program that

reaches out to high school students who want MHS senior Caacbay will also to expand their knowledge of science beyond the classroom and the textbooks.'

research projects

The MHS student successfully completed the same program last year as a junior. During that time, she studied Pacific box jellyfish along with University of Hawaii at Manoa professors. Dizon's work was eventually published in the Ethnicity and

tional Society on Hypertension in Blacks.

As for what she plans to study fair champion, told Saipan Tri- this year, Dizon said that she will select a >> MHS, KHS students project that is to conduct science relevant to the

> Fellow be going on her second year in the program.

islands.

As a junior, she conducted research on the invasive species known as the Philippines Fruit Fly and Mango Fruit Fly, with the intention to assist local farmers and Saipan's agricultural industry.

"I was so excited when I received the acceptance this added. "Since my participation last summer, my experience in the Step-Up program ultimately solidified my career and educational goals."

Her research project for this summer, she said, will concentrate on the utilization of DNA sequences.

The Public School System's local Step-Up coordinator, Annette Pladevega, and NMC's Dr. Alfredo de Torres will supervise the students' summer projects.

According to Pladevega, PSS partners with the program in the selection and training of participants, who will be presenting their research at the local symposium or the National Institutes of Health symposium to be held in

### Insurance Co. general manager Lillian S. Cabrera. "We are excited to be a part of the NMC

opportunities for college students in the CNMI." The NMC Foundation is

In its commitment to advance ment of opportunities in support of higher education for people in the CNMI. The golf tournament is the NMC Foundation's signature event that raises funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

> The golf tournament will be held at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course) with a show time of 6am and shotgun start at 7am and will follow a medal play format. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies.

> The entrance fee is \$95 per player. Payments for the entrance fee can be made at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, and the NMC Cashier.

> For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.marianas.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 6810/6811. (NMC)

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

### Accountant

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, Geniisys and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan, Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, April 17, 2015.

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

### General Maintenance Worker

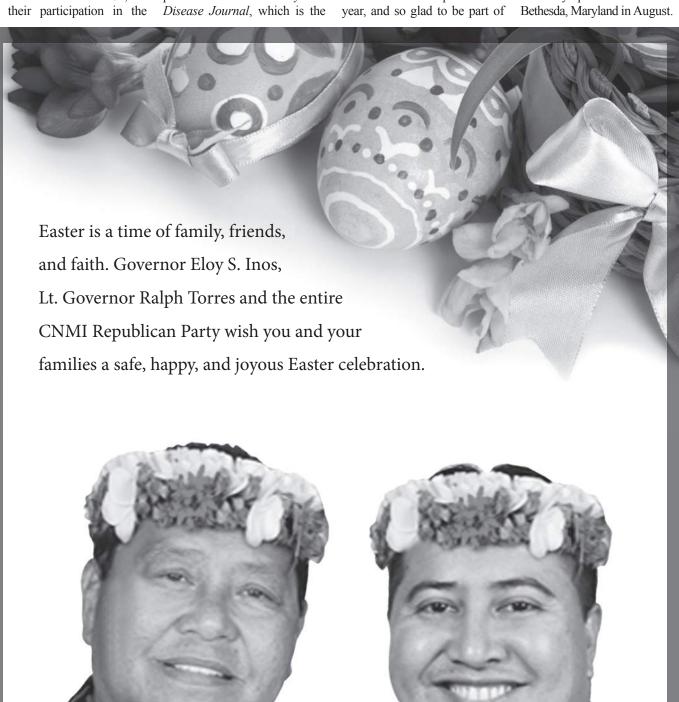
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

### Accountant

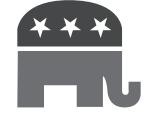
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, April 17, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres



Paid for by the CNMI Republican Party

# Plastic Bag Challenge kicks off with celebrity bagging



Rep. Angel Demapan and the Lt. Governor's chief of staff Matt Deleon Guerrero were a few of the many volunteer baggers giving out free

reusable eco bags to customers.

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is excited to welcome D&Q International Distributors as the newest partner of the Plastic Bag Challenge cam-

To kick off this partnership with MINA and Joeten, we celebrated with the help of CNMI volunteer superstars. The event was held on Tuesday, March 31, at Joeten Susupe, Joeten Dandan, Joeten Kagman, and

Joeten Hafa Adai from 5pm to 6pm. Volunteers bagged groceries and handed out reusable ecobags to encourage customers to reduce the use of plastic bags.

Remember, April is Environmental Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Our Natural Treasures." Call MINA and BECQ at 233-REEF or 664-8500 to see how you can join in on the many environmental activities! (MINA)



MINA board chair Frankie Eliptico and Xerox sales executive Nola Hix stop for a quick photo during



BECQ's Jihan Buniag bags groceries with one of the bags MINA gave



From left, MINA volunteer Myla Capilitan, interim executive director Brooke Nevitt, BECQ's Jihan Buniag, Miss Teen Marianas Gianna Camacho, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez support MINA's efforts in eliminating plastic pollution in the CNMI.



Members of the Marianas Young Professionals volunteer their time at the second Volunteer Bagging at



House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero loads groceries into a reusable bag.



MINA board member Eleanor Cabrera and family came out to support the Plastic Bag Challenge campaign.



Jackie Che, NMC director for Institutional Effectiveness, volunteers during the second volunteer bagging

# NMC, Marianas High tie up for Junior Seminar



High School to host the "MHS Ju-MHS juniors. The event's aim was their college and career experiences. (NMC)

he Northern Marianas College re- to help juniors prepare for college and to provide cently collaborated with Marianas them with information about different majors, careers, and financial aid options. The students also nior Seminar" for more than 300 heard from many community leaders who shared



Public and private sectors were introduced on stage before they sat with the students and shared their college and career experiences. From left, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Rep. Ed Propst, Pacifica Insurance general manager Shirley Sablan, and FBI agent Joe McDoulett.



LJ Castro, left, leads the MHS juniors during one of the icebreaker activities.

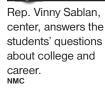


Over 300 Marianas High School juniors attend the Junior Seminar organized by the Northern Marianas





Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Lizama shares her career advice with MHS juniors.



Lt. Governor's Office chief of staff Matt Deleon Guerrero shares his experiences as a college student and also shared career advice.

**20** FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Business**

# McDonald's: Workers to get pay hikes at company-owned stores

NEW YORK (AP)-McDonald's says it's raising pay for workers at company-owned U.S. restaurants, making it the latest employer to sweeten worker incentives in an improving economy.

The fast-food chain owns about 10 percent of its more than 14,300 U.S. restaurants, representing about 90,000 workers. The rest are run by franchisees and McDonald's said they "make their own decisions on pay and benefits."

The announcement comes as several major companies including Wal-Mart Stores Inc. have announced wage hikes as the economy has picked up and made it more difficult to find reliable workers. Over the past 12 months, the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.5 percent from 6.7 percent.

"It's a very competitive environment and a significant rationale for this plan is that we want to be the most competitive and attractive employer," said McDonald's USA President Mike Andres in a phone interview. He added that people also have "new expectations" around jobs and that many franchisees have already been providing higher pay to attract



This May 2, 2012, file photo shows a sign advertising job openings outside a McDonalds restaurant in Chesterland, Ohio.

and retain workers.

The change also comes as McDonald's has been dealing with negative publicity from ongoing demonstrations demanding pay of \$15 an hour and a union. In addition to protests since late 2012, worker groups have been pressuring the company with lawsuits and cases filed with the National Labor Relations Board and U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration over issues including the alleged denial of breaks and overtime pay, burns from popping grease and

a lack of protective gear.

Andres said few McDonald's workers were taking part in the protests, and that they aren't hurting the company's image.

"They're not taking a toll," he

Last month, McDonald's Chief Administrative Officer Pete Bensen hinted such an announcement could be in the works. Bensen said at the time that a big part of the turnaround effort in the U.S. would be what the company is doing "around the employment image and our employee-employer relationship."

### **SIDEBAR**

# McDonald's joins Wal-Mart, Gap, other cos. in raising wages

NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's said Wednesday it is raising pay for workers at restaurants that the company owns. Here's a look at all the big companies that recently have announced they are boosting hourly wages for their employees:

In February Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the largest private employer in the U.S., said it will boost its minimum pay to \$9 an hour in April and to \$10 by February 2016. That means 500,000 employees will get a raise.

TJX Cos., the parent of discount store operator TJ Maxx and Marshall's, said in February that it will pay all of its U.S. workers at least \$9 an hour starting in June.

Health insurer Aetna Inc. said in January that it will pay a minimum of \$16 an hour starting in April. That's more than twice the federal minimum wage of \$7.25, and Aetna said about 5,700 employees will get a raise.

Home furnishings retailer Ikea said in June that it would increase its raise wages 17 percent on average, bringing its hourly wage to \$10.76 on average. Ikea said it will peg its salaries to the cost of living in different locations, and its move means higher wages for about 5,500 hourly store workers.

Retailer Gap Inc. said in February 2014 that it will set the minimum wage for workers at \$9 an hour this year and \$10 an hour in 2015.

McDonald's Corp. said starting wages will be \$1 above the local minimum wage, and its average hourly wage at those stores will be more than \$10 an hour, up from \$9 an hour. The move applies to about 90,000 workers at about 1,400 restaurants owned by McDonald's. It has about 14,300 U.S. locations, the vast majority of which are franchised.

# US car buyers tap the brakes in March, following torrid run

**DETROIT** (AP)—U.S. car buyers tapped the brakes in March, a sign of a long-expected slowdown in the blistering pace of sales.

March sales were up less than 1 percent compared with the same month a year ago. U.S. consumers bought 1.5 million new cars and trucks in March, according to Autodata Corp.

Some automakers reported larger gains. Hyundai's U.S. sales jumped 12 percent over last March after a big boost in incentives. Subaru's sales were up 10 percent. Toyota's sales were up 5 percent, and FCA—the parent of Chrysler and Fiat—said its sales rose 2

But those gains were nearly offset by lower sales at other major automakers. General Motors' sales fell 2 percent and Ford and Nissan both saw 3 percent declines. Honda's sales were down 5 percent. Volkswagen's sales plummeted 18 per-

For the most part, March didn't see the kind of big increases the industry has gotten used to. U.S. auto sales were up 14 percent in January, for example, and 5 percent in February.

There were several contributing factors. Last March saw a

surge in sales after an unusually cold February; by contrast, this March still had lingering snow in much of the country. This March also had one less weekend than last March.

Still, March gave the industry a taste of what's to come as U.S. new-car sales reach a natural peak. Sales have been increasing by around 1 million vehicles each vear since 2009, when sales fell to 10.4 million vehicles in the depths of the recession. But as sales approach the historic peak of 17 million, the pace is expected to slow. U.S. consumers bought 16.5 million new vehicles last year.

# **Nation**

# New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez vows to fight corruption charges

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A drawn-out legal fight defiant New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez declared that he's "not going anywhere" after he was charged with accepting nearly \$1 million in gifts and campaign contributions from a longtime friend in exchange for a stream of political favors.

Menendez is expected to appear in federal court in Newark Thursday in response to charges that he used the power of his Senate seat to benefit Dr. Salomon Melgen, a wealthy Florida eye doctor who prosecutors say provided the senator with luxury vacations, airline travel, golf trips and tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to a legal defense fund.

The indictment, which marks the latest development in a federal investigation that came into public view when federal authorities raided Melgen's medical offices in 2013, will almost certainly lead to a between Menendez and a team of Justice Department prosecutors who have spent years investigating his ties to Melgen.

It will require prosecutors to prove Menendez that a close and

longtime friendship between the men was used for criminal purposes and is likely to revive the legal debate about the constitutional protections afforded to members of Congress for acts they take in office, which Menendez has already signaled as a possible line of defense.

criminal charges brought Wednesday cloud the political future of the top Democrat-and former chairman-of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who has played a leading role on Capitol Hill on matters involving



gram and U.S. efforts to improve ties with Cuba.

Menendez he would temporarily step aside from his role as top Democrat on the committee, but appeared more defi-

ant than ever at a hastily-called press conference that felt more like a political rally, with enthusiastic supports cheering him on.

"I'm outraged that prosecutors at the Justice Department were tricked into starting this investigating three years ago with false allegations by those who have a political motive to silence me. But I will not be silenced. I am confident, at the end of the day, I will be vindicated and they will be exposed," Menendez told reporters, adding: "This is not how my career is going to end."

### Getty oil heir's death latest in string of family tragedies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a family name that has long been associated with unimaginable wealth and sometimes unspeakable tragedy.

The mysterious death of J. Paul Getty's grandson Andrew Getty is just the latest example of the latter.

Andrew Getty, 47, was found dead Tuesday after authorities said his girlfriend called 911 to report discovering his bloodied body at his Hollywood Hills mansion.

He appeared to have died of natural causes, coroner's Assistant Chief Ed Winter said, but he added it could take more than two months to determine the exact cause.

The reclusive Getty had said in recent court documents that he was battling a "serious medical condition" that could endanger his life.

He and other heirs of oil baron J. Paul Getty have managed to maintain a significant share of the fortune their patriarch left behind, but the money hasn't shielded subsequent generations from drug addiction, premature death, tabloid scandal and violent attacks by

"The story of the famed Getty family is one of the most obvious examples that money, cold hard cash, doesn't buy happiness," Forbes Magazine reported in a profile last year when it listed the combined family fortune at \$5 billion— 54th highest on its list of America's most wealthy.

Andrew Getty's cousin J. Paul Getty III was kidnapped in Italy in 1973. When his wealthy grandfather was slow to pay a ransom, kidnappers cut off the 16-year-old's ear and threatened to return him piece by piece if they didn't get money.

The oil baron, who previously told reporters, "I have 14 grandchildren and if I pay one penny ransom, I'll have 14 kidnapped grandchildren," eventually coughed up a sum reported to be \$3 million.

for their role in a scheme to

### ACROSS THE NATION

### California governor orders mandatory water restrictions

ECHO LAKE, Calif. (AP)— California Gov. Jerry Brown ordered officials Wednesday to impose statewide mandatory vater restrictions for the first time in history as surveyors found the lowest snow level in the Sierra Nevada snowpack in 65 years of record-keeping. Standing in dry, brown grass at a site that normally would be snow-covered this time of year, Brown announced he had signed an executive order requiring the State Water Resources Control Board to implement measures in cities and towns to cut the state's overall water usage by 25 percent compared with 2013 levels. The move will affect residents, businesses, farmers and other users. "We're in a historic drought and that demands unprecedented action," Brown said at a news conference at Echo Summit in the Sierra Nevada, where state water officials found no snow on the ground for the first time in their April manual survey of the snowpack. "We have to pull together and save water in every way we can." After declaring a drought emergency in January 2014, Brown urged all Californians to cut water use by 20 percent from the previous year.

### **11 former Atlanta** educators convicted in cheating scandal

ATLANTA (AP)—In one of the biggest cheating scandals of its kind in the U.S., 11 former Atlanta public school educators were convicted Wednesday of racketeering inflate students' scores on standardized exams. The defendants, including teachers, a principal and other administrators, were accused of falsifying test results to collect bonuses or keep their jobs in the 50,000-student Atlanta school system. A 12th defendant, a teacher, was acquitted of all charges by the jury. The racketeering charges carry up to 20 years in prison. Most of the defendants will be sentenced April 8. "This is a huge story and absolutely the biggest development in American education law since forever," said University of Georgia law professor Ron Carlson. "It has to send a message to educators here and broadly across the nation. Playing with student test scores is very, very dangerous business."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 **21** 

# Asia

# US hopes Japan navy will be more active in Pacific

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP)— Even as Japan remains divided over proposed changes in the role it should play in regional security issues, senior U.S. and Japanese military officers say they hope the Japanese navy may soon be freed up to play a more active role in the Pacific and beyond, plying some of the world's most hotly contested waters.

Vice Adm. Robert Thomas, commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, said he expects revisions headed for approval in Japan's parliament will make it easier

for the Japanese and U.S. navies to cooperate more smoothly in the Indian and Pacific oceans and in "multilateral exercises across the region."

The proposed guidelines are important to Washington because Japan is the United States' closest and most stalwart ally in Asia. They come as Japan is already shifting its defense priorities from northern reaches near Russia to the East China Sea, where Tokyo and Beijing are locked in a dispute over a chain of uninhabited islands.

Japan is setting up an amphibious unit similar to the U.S. Marines to respond quickly to any invasion of those islands and is also planning to upgrade its air defenses with F-35 stealth fighters and Global Hawk drones.

One of the key strategic goals for Tokyo and Washington is to allow Japan to participate in what is known as collective selfdefense, meaning that it would be able to come to the aid of an ally under attack even if that did not entail a direct attack on Japan or its own military.



In this March 31, 2015 photo, an officer stands on the deck of the USS Blue Ridge during a port call in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

### Thailand junta replaces martial law with absolute power

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's junta lifted martial law in most of the nation, but 10 months after staging a coup, it remains firmly in control-with new laws invoked Wednesday that essentially give it absolute power.

The government of former army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha had faced growing pressure from foreign governments, human rights groups and particularly Thailand's own business community to revoke martial law.

Although it wasn't generally visible in everyday lifestreets—it scared off foreign investors and hurt tourism, which accounts for nearly 10 percent of the GDP. Tour operators called it a tourist deterrent, partly because many insurance companies won't cover travelers to countries under martial law.

Thailand's king on Wednesday formally approved a request from the junta that martial law be lifted.

In its place, though, the junta invoked a special security measure called Article 44 in the Institute of Security and Intermilitary-imposed interim conthere were few soldiers in the stitution that gives Prayuth the Chulalongkorn University.

power to override any branch of government in the name of national security, and absolves him of any legal responsibility for his actions.

Thai media have referred to it as "the dictator law." Under similar legislation in the 1960s, a Thai dictator carried out summary executions.

"From the outside, the lifting of martial law is good news for business and tourism," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist and director of the national Studies at Bangkok's

### Vietnam meets demands to end strike in Nike, Adidas factory

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)— Workers at a major Vietnamese footwear factory for Nike and Adidas ended a weeklong strike Thursday after the government agreed to their demands on retirement payouts.

The stoppage by thousands of workers at the Taiwanese-owned Pou Yuen factory in southern Ho Chi Minh City was a rare challenge to communist authorities over policy issues, although strikes over poor working conditions and low pay are common.

The workers were protesting a social insurance law, which comes into effect next year and says that workers will get a social insurance monthly allowance when they retire instead of getting a one-time payment if they resign. The workers said that if they quit, they would have to wait until their retirement age—60 for men and 55 for women—to get the allowance, and prefer the lump sum to pay for their daily needs while seeking new jobs.

The strike was peaceful and earlier this week the workers blocked a major highway, but there was a heavy police presence at the factory.

In a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on Wednesday, representatives from the Labor Ministry, the trade union and the Ho Chi Minh City government proposed changes to the law to make it "suitable to the situation" and meet the workers' demand, the government said in a statement.

# World

# Iraq hails victory over Islamic State in Tikrit

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP)—The government declared victory in Tikrit on Wednesday over extremists of the Islamic State group, and it warned the militants holding other Iraqi provinces that they would be the next to fall.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi walked triumphantly along a street in Tikrit, carrying an Iraqi flag and surrounded by jubilant forces.

Across the border in Syria, however, Islamic State fighters made their deepest foray yet into the capital of Damascus by infiltrating a Palestinian refugee camp, according to opposition activists and Palestinian officials.

Iraq's victory over the extremists in Tikrit was seen as a key step toward eventually driving the militants out of Mosul, Iraq's secondlargest city and the capital of Nineveh province.

Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi announced the victory, saying security forces have "accomplished their mission" in the monthlong offensive to rid Saddam Hussein's hometown and the broader Salahuddin province of the militant group.

"We have the pleasure, with



Source: AP Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

all our pride, to announce the good news of a magnificent victory," Obeidi said in a video statement, and he named the other Iraqi provinces still being held by the IS militants.

"Here we come to you, Anbar! Here we come to you, Nineveh, and we say it with full resolution, confidence, and persistence," he said.

Al-Abadi said that military engineering units still need more time to clear Tikrit of booby traps and looked to the next steps for the city and province.

"God willing, there will be a fund to rebuild areas destroyed by Daesh and the war. Tikrit and Salahuddin areas will be covered by this fund," al-Abadi said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

The extremists seized Tikrit last summer during its advance out of Syria and across northern and western Iraq.

Iraqi forces, including soldiers, police officers, Shiite militias and Sunni tribes, launched a large-scale operation to recapture Tikrit on March 2. Last week, the U.S. launched airstrikes on the embattled city at the request of the Iraqi government.

Recapturing Tikrit is seen as the biggest win so far for Baghdad's Shiite-led government. The city is about 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad on the road connecting the capital to Mosul. Retaking it will help Iraqi forces have a major supply link for any future operation against Mosul.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the victory was compelling evidence that the U.S. strategy against IS was working. He said the Tikrit operation had been stalled for weeks but that coalition airstrikes and advancing local forces apparently caused IS fighters to withdraw.

### Alps crash: Bodies recovered, but families must wait months

SEYNE-LES-ALPES, France (AP)—Just over a week after a Germanwings plane crashed into the French Alps, investigators have finished retrieving human remains from the crash site and are now trying to match them with DNA profiles from the 150 people killed—an arduous task that could leave families waiting for months.

The extraordinary recovery process mobilized hundreds of people and cut a stony road into a forested Alpine mountainside to help the team bring back anything they found, from a body part to a tiny shred of skin. Not a single intact body

Francois Daoust, head of

the France's IRCGN national criminal laboratory in Pontoise outside Paris, said that as of Monday afternoon the forensic teams on the site and in Paris had isolated 78 distinct DNA profiles from the hundreds of samples recovered at the site—leaving nearly as many unaccounted for.

Meanwhile, they had only received complete DNA profiles for about 60 victims from their relatives because it takes time to gather samples from families still reeling from their loss.

Based on black box cockpit recordings recovered the day of the crash, investigators believe the Germanwings copilot, Andreas Lubitz, locked the captain out of the cockpit and deliberately slammed the plane into the mountain, killing everyone on board.

The impact of the March 24 crash shattered the plane and all those inside, ripped a black box from its orange protective casing, and left shreds of metal and cloth scattered across hundreds of meters (yards).

Lt. Col. Jean-Marc Menichini, who has been involved in the operation focusing on recovering victims' remains, said Wednesday "there are no longer any visible remains" at the crash site.

A special unit of mountain troops, with help from German investigators, is now clearing the crash site of everything else that is there—including debris and personal effects.

### :.L. 122 ...... Russian trawier with 132 crew sinks, at least 54 dead

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian freezer trawler with an international crew of 132 sank Thursday morning in the Sea of Okhotsk off of the Kamchatka Peninsula and at least 54 crew members were killed, rescue workers said.

Emergency services in Kamchatka, citing the head of the rescue operation, said 63 crew members were rescued and the fate of the remaining 15 from the Dalny Vostok trawler was unknown.

More than 25 fishing boats in the area helped to rescue the crew members, emergency services said in a statement on their website.

No cause for the sinking was given, but the Interfax news agency said drifting ice in the chilly Pacific waters may have played a role.

Rescue workers were able to lift aboard fishing boats 63 crew members and 54 bodies, the news agency said.

The trawler sent no distress signals prior to sinking, Interfax said

The Russian Emergencies Ministry sent an Mi-8 helicopter with rescuers and doctors aboard to deliver medical assistance and transport rescued crew members to hospitals in the city of Magadan, the ministry said on its website. It also set up a telephone hotline for families of the crew, the ministry said.

Among the 132 crew members, 78 are from Russia, 42 from Myanmar and the rest from Latvia, Ukraine and Vanuatu.

The search and rescue operation involved 1,300 people and 29 units of equipment, emergency services said.

**22** FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Science & Technology

# Google, Microsoft battle drives down prices for PCs, tablets

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Google is releasing its cheapest Chromebook laptops yet, two versions priced at \$149

aimed at undercutting Microsoft's Windows franchise and gaining ground in even more classrooms.

ers have been working with Google to design lightweight laptops running on

Various PC manufactur- the Chrome operating system book can be ordered beginsince 2011. The newest versions are made by Hisense and Haier. Hisense's Chrome-

ing professors said. The key

innovation was coming up with

manufacture or market this par-

ticular device but will talk to

This was more of an engineer-

ing challenge than a plan to cre-

ate the next hot product, Collins

said. For a long time, researchers

had figured that evolution had al-

ready provided humans with the

most efficient means of moving.

So the question was: Can scien-

tists improve on nature without

"Most studies show that hu-

man walking is incredibly effi-

cient, so finding a way to make it

better is incredibly interesting,"

said biomechanical engineering

professor Andy Ruina at Cor-

nell University, who wasn't part

Ruina and other outside engi-

"It's totally cool," Ruina

said in a telephone interview,

while walking and a little out of

breath. "I wish I had those."

neers praised the new device.

using motors to cheat?

He said he has no plans to

the clutch, Collins said.

others who want to do so.

ning Tuesday at Walmart.com and Haier's version can be bought at Amazon.com.

Their arrival coincides with Microsoft's rollout of a lower-priced Surface tablet in an effort to reach students and budget-conscious families. Pre-orders for that device be-

As the prices for tablets and smartphones have been declining, it has forced on PC makers to lower their prices, said International Data Corp. analyst Jay Chou. The success of the Chromebook line is intensifying the PC pricing pressure.

gan Tuesday, too.

"It has been good news for consumers, but not so good for vendors," Chou said.

The cheaper version of the Surface Pro 3 sells for \$499. compared with \$799 to \$1,949 for the higher-end models. The discounted version has a slightly smaller screen—10.8 inches rather than 12—a slower processor, and less flexible kickstandjust three angles rather than unlimited positions.

The Chromebook served a dual purpose for Google. Like the company's Android software for mobile devices, the Chrome system is

set up so users will automatically begin using Google's search engine and other services, such as Gmail and YouTube. Google has used the Chromebooks as a prod to bring down the prices of all PCs, something the company wanted to do because it has more opportunities to show the digital ads that bring in most of its revenue when more people can afford to buy an Internet-connected device.

"We cannot be happier that Microsoft is helping drive down the prices of PCs," said Caesar Sengupta, Google's vice president of product management for Chromebooks. "If Microsoft is reacting to (Chromebook's low prices), that's fantastic. We love it."

Unlike most computers, Chromebooks don't have a hard drive. Instead, they function as terminals dependent on an Internet connection to get most work done.

Despite those limitations, Chromebooks have been steadily gaining in popularity, particularly in schools, as more applications and services made available over Internet connections—a phenomenon known as "cloud computing" that has reduced the need for hard drives.

### Engineers create boot-like device to make walking easier

gineers have come up with a motor-free device to make walking more efficient and easier-something scientists once thought couldn't be done.

The prototype exoskeleton boot runs from just below the knee to the ankle, and when you strap on a pair, you can reduce the energy it takes to walk by 7 percent. That means you won't burn as many calories.

It's wearable robotics without a motor or a power source. The one-pound device relies instead on a spring to store energy and release it with each step, and a clutch that engages the spring at the proper moment.

The device is a little too bulky to fit under pants legs or socks.

"It doesn't look too bad. Looks kind of flashy," said Carnegie Mellon University engineering professor Steven Collins, lead author of a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature. "When you first put them on, it feels a little bit odd, then after a few minutes you



This handout photo provided by Carnegie Mellon University, taken in March 2015, shows an exoskeleton boot on a person walking in a park in Pittsburgh

don't really notice it very much."

With an obese nation, making exercise burn fewer calories may not seem like the best idea, but it's not as crazy as it sounds, Collins said.

Studies show that when walking or biking becomes harder, people do it less. So maybe if it becomes easier, people will do it more and burn more calories in the long run, Collins said.

This sort of hydraulic cast could also boost the development of other exoskeleton devices—perhaps for the hips—to help disabled people walk better, Collins and other engineer-

### TECH Q & A

of the study.

### How to take your contacts along when switching email

By STEVE ALEXANDER

Q: I can't send email messages from my Microsoft Windows Live Mail program anymore, and my computer support people can't figure out how to fix it. As an alternative, they set up a Google **Gmail account for me. But** I can't use my Windows Live Mail contacts on Gmail except for a few email addresses I managed to transfer between the two. What should I do?—Paul Ehrhard, Hastings, Minn.

**A:** Many people have trouble with Windows Live Mail because of its complexity. I suggest that you switch to using Gmail exclusively instead of trying to use the two email systems together.

Why? Windows Live Mail and Gmail represent two different ways of handling email. Windows Live Mail is "client software," a PC program that stores your email and contacts on your hard drive. Gmail is "Webmail," meaning that it stores everything online.

But the two can work together. Windows Live Mail can act as a central receiving point for messages from several different email accounts and providers, including Gmail. The trouble is that Windows Live Mail and Gmail have only limited interaction. As a result, you can't use your entire Windows Live Mail contact list to send emails through Gmail.

The solution is to switch from Windows Live Mail to Gmail and take all your email contacts with you. First "export" your Windows Live Mail contacts to your PC as a ".CSV" (comma-separated

values) file. Then log on to Gmail at Gmail.com (not via Windows Live Mail) and upload the .CSV file. For detailed instructions, see tinyurl.com/

Note: When you get to "Step 2: Importing Contacts Into Gmail," you may need to perform an interim step not listed in the directions. If, when you click on Gmail's "Contacts," you get a vertical rather than a horizontal menu, click "More," then "Import." You'll be given the choice "Go to old contacts." Click on that, then resume following the directions by clicking "More."

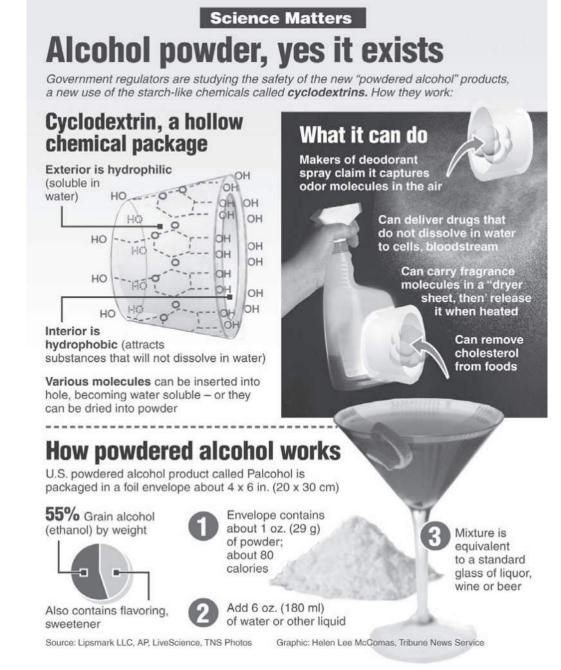
Q: I'm having problems with my Lenovo IdeaPad Yoga 13, a laptop that converts to a tablet PC. The battery will only charge up to 60 percent of capacity. And I can't output video to an external computer screen, even though I've reinstalled the video driver software as suggested. What should I do?-Jim Plantan, **Bloomington, Minn.** 

**A:** It sounds as if your battery is wearing out and needs to be replaced (see tinyurl.com/ o5a8hpt). Because your video output problem wasn't solved by reloading

the video driver, I suspect the cause is a hardware failure. Unfortunately, the Yoga's video hardware is built into its main circuit board, so you'd need to replace that (see tinyurl.com/ njm96sb).

I doubt it's worth spending approximately \$300 on parts (plus labor) to fix a nearly three-year-old computer that originally sold for about \$1,100. You could buy a new PC or a used Yoga similar to yours (about \$700, see tinyurl. com/nzqp6wk).

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; steve.j.alexander@gmail. com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 **23** 

# Off the Wall

# Dog survives being hit by car, clubbed, abandoned



In this photo taken on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, Ryann Simmons sits with the dog his girlfriend is fostering at their home in Moses Lake, Wash.

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—The stray dog was hit by a car, clubbed in the head and left for dead in a ditch in Washington state. Days later, the 1-year-old bully breed mix showed up sickly and covered in dirt at a nearby farm.

Now, the dog that defied death is recovering with the help of good Samaritans and veterinarians at Washington State University.

The dog used to roam the streets getting scraps of food from people in Moses Lake, a

farm town about 100 miles west of Spokane.

About a month ago, she was struck by a car. Then things got worse: Someone cracked her in the head with a hammer and placed her in a box in a farm field.

But the dog somehow survived

# Couple win a million in lottery for 2nd time

**LONDON** (AP)—A couple from northern England has defied the odds—again—by winning a million pounds (\$1.5 million) in the lottery for a second time.

David and Kathleen Long won the money—and a car—in the EuroMillions Mega Friday Draw, having already scooped up 1 million pounds in 2013.

Lottery operator Camelot said Wednesday the couple beat odds of 283-billion-to-1.

David Long says he played his usual numbers and watched in amazement as they came up. His wife, Kathleen, had to verify them. Since then, it's all been a blur.

The retired truck driver says the win means he'll probably take his wife on a cruise—as he's run out of excuses not to go now. A party is also planned.



David and Kathleen Long pose for a photograph with their symbolic cheques from the British lottery at The Mallard in Scunthorpe, England. David and Kathleen Long won the prize in the EuroMillions Mega Friday Draw, having already scooped up 1 million pounds \$1.5 million) in 2013.

### Police: Idaho man calls 911 a dozen times about bar bill

POST FALLS, Idaho (AP)—Police say a northern Idaho man called 911 a dozen times to report being overcharged at a bar and now faces a \$1,000 fine and a year in jail.

Post Falls police Capt. Pat Knight says an officer gave Phillip Poissonnier of Post Falls a ride home after he was kicked out of Club Tequila just after 1 a.m. Monday.

Knight tells Spokane, Washington, television station KXLY (http://is.gd/k21YQR) that Poissonnier then made 12 emergency calls, the first wanting officers to come back to discuss his bar tab.

The TV station reports that Press on Tuesday.

a bartender produced Poissonnier's receipts showing he was charged \$30 for the 10 beers he ordered.

Police say he faces a misdemeanor citation over misusing 911.

Poissonnier couldn't be reached by The Associated Press on Tuesday

and was discovered at a nearby farm with a dislocated jaw, leg injuries and a caved-in sinus cavity.

The wounds helped veterinarians piece together what happened, including the hammer blow.

"I'm assuming that the person who did this meant to put her out of her misery," said Sara Mellado, who learned about the dog's plight on Facebook and took the animal into her Moses Lake home.

She named the dog Theia.

"Considering everything that she's been through, she's incredibly gentle and loving," Mellado told The Associated Press. "She's a true miracle dog, and she deserves a good life."

Theia is receiving care at WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Pullman.

A CT scan of her skull revealed a condition that constricts the nasal passages, restricting air flow into the lungs, said veterinary resident Andrea Sundholm, who's assisting with Theia's treatment. It was caused by multiple nasal bone fractures.

When Theia tries to draw air in through her nose, she's forced to open her mouth to breathe instead. But with a dislocated jaw, that is challenging as well.

Theia's jaw is healing on its own, but the nasal-bone fractures have caused lasting problems, Sundholm said. Fixing that will require surgery to insert a stent, she said.

The veterinary hospital's Good Samaritan Fund awarded \$700 to help pay for Theia's early treatment.

Mellado has raised another \$10,000 for the surgery through a crowdfunding website, and is planning to call WSU to schedule the procedure.

The university said despite her injuries, Theia is friendly and likes to kiss people's cheeks.

Mellado said she has been deluged with calls from people seeking to help. Theia is staying with Mellado's family until they find her a permanent home.

"She's a puppy," Mellado said. "She's outgoing, lovable, up for meeting new people."



### Sister: Maria S. Linus and children

She is also survived by numerous Great-Grand Children, Grand Children, In-Laws, Aunts, Uncle, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, God Children and Friends.

Nightly mass of intentions is being offered at Santa Soledad Church at 6:00 pm. Nightly rosaries will be held at the residence of the late Leonisa Inoke's residence at Kagman 3 at 7:00 pm. On Tuesday, April 07, 2015 our dearly beloved will be escorted from CHCC Morgue at 8:00 am to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso, Holy Rosary and public viewing will follow immediately. Mass for the Christian burial will be at 10:00 am, followed by the Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.



Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

From The Family

**24** FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Life & Style

# Fast, furious, unstoppable: Franchise stays in high gear

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Neither Vin Diesel nor producer Neal Moritz wanted a sequel to "The Fast and the Furious." The 2001 film about a group of East Los Angeles street racers and the FBI agent (Paul Walker) who infiltrates their ring just wasn't "that kind of film," according to Moritz.

Now, 14 years, seven movies, a few restarts and \$2.4 billion later, Universal's homegrown "Fast & Furious" franchise has become one of the jewels of the studio.

And, cinema's most improbable series keeps getting bigger and faster, fueled by growing international interest. With its diverse cast, keen self-awareness, postcard locales and crazy stunts, "Fast & Furious" has become the quintessential global franchise.

And even larger sums of international currency lie ahead: "Furious 7" is tracking to be the most successful installment yet, with the studio planning to make at least three more movies.

The first film's \$207 million



This photo provided by Universal Pictures shows, Vin Diesel as Dom Toretto in a scene from "Furious 7."

worldwide gross made a sequel inevitable, even without Diesel, who still thought it was a mistake and was willing to walk away from "2 Fast 2 Furious" and \$20-some million to prove it.

"I felt like the surest way to rule yourself out of being a classic was to sequel-ize," said Diesel.

Then, when director Justin Lin and screenwriter Chris Morgan stepped in for the third film, "Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift," it seemed like a franchise killer. But in convincing Diesel to come back for a small cameo, the team concocted a crazy plan for three more films that would create an interconnected saga out of the disparate story lines.

The fourth, simply titled "Fast & Furious," was the turning

point, reuniting the originals, including Diesel and Walker, with key members of "Tokyo Drift." Lin, Morgan, Moritz and Diesel (along with his millions of social media fans) followed that with perhaps the best film in the series, "Fast Five," which added Dwayne Johnson to the cast and earned \$630 million worldwide. "Fast & Furious 6" did even better, grossing a staggering \$789 million.

"These films pushed the boundaries of traditional action movie motifs and created a world unto itself," said Paul Dergarabedian, the Senior Analyst for box office firm Rentrak. "Their international locales and diverse cast made them a truly global phenomenon."

Director James Wan, who took the helm for the seventh film, believes the "Furious" appeal has a lot to do with the characters and casting.

"People like this franchise because of the incredible stunts and crazy action set pieces. But

point, reuniting the originals, including Diesel and Walker, with key members of "Tokyo Drift." Lin, Morgan, Moritz and Diesel (along with his millions

I think, ultimately, it has longevity because of the characters; people love the actors playing the characters," said Wan.

Not only does the series boast one of the most racially diverse casts in blockbuster history, the team is always looking at the evolution of the story with an eye to the international, from the savvy casting of talents like Indonesian actor Joe Taslim ("Fast & Furious 6") and Thai martial artist Tony Jaa ("Furious 7"), to those travelogue locations.

"It does help," said Universal's president of international distribution, Duncan Clark, who saw an uptick in earnings from Brazil after it was featured in "Fast Five." He hopes the same will be true for Abu Dhabi, a key setting in the latest movie. Diesel, in a YouTube video, said outright that they took the production to the United Arab Emirates for its box office potential.

Indeed, most international

markets have grown steadily over the past few films, but none can match the power of China, which has become "a tremendous elevation for all films now," said Clark. China contributed \$53.6 million of the sixth film's total (up from "Fast Five's" \$38 million) and all eyes are on "Furious 7's" debut there on April 12.

China's worth was not lost on the promotional side either. While "Fast & Furious 6" had an extensive international press tour, "Furious 7" had only two locations on the schedule: Los Angeles and Beijing, its first press event there.

For Universal, the series is vitally important to its overall business and a worthy competitor to the superhero fare of other studios.

"At this point we believe we can compete with anybody. We saw a huge opportunity to be the first movie of the early summer and then have three weeks all to ourselves," said Moritz.

# 'A.D. The Bible Continues' goes beyond the biblical epic

OUARZAZATE, Morocco (AP)—The people are restive, the priesthood is scheming and a fanatic band of insurgents known as the zealots are plotting assassinations—and now to make matters worse, the body of a condemned cult-leader known as Jesus has disappeared from the tomb, apparently following some ancient prophecy.

Politics in Jerusalem 33 A.D. was just as complex and dangerous as it is today and NBC's new series, "A.D. The Bible Continues" fuses the biblical epic with the current rage for taut political dramas—"House of Cards" in sandals.

The first of the 12 episodes airs at 9 p.m. EDT Easter, picking up where its predecessor, the wildly popular "The Bible" series from the History Channel left off and going on to tell the story of what happened to Christ's disciples after the crucifixion.

It is choosing this time period that makes "A.D." such a departure from past Bible stories, most of which end with the resurrection.

Here, it is just a beginning and a rough one as well, with an anguished Mother Mary (played by Greta Scacchi) watching her son die on the cross while the terrified apostles fear the rage of the crowd and try to distance themselves from their leader.

"The decade following the crucifixion, from the perspective of the Apostles, it was the best of times, it was the worst of times," creator Mark Burnett, whose credits include "Survivor," "The Bible" and "Shark

Tank," told The Associated Press from his home in Malibu. "Every day, they thought they could be killed."

He and his co-producer and wife, Roma Downey, actress and former star of CBS' "Touched By an Angel," touched a chord with the original Bible series that debuted in 2013 on the History channel to 13 million viewers, prompting NBC pick up their plans to craft a sequel for network television.

This new series, however, goes for a more gritty and human approach that tries to understand the characters as humans caught up in the politics of the day. Only about half of the material comes from the Bible, with the rest from historians of the period.

"If anyone comes to it expecting to see only the Bible, they will be interested to see that we have created a much larger and historic and political contest to set that story in," said Downey, as she took a lunch break during the filming outside the grandiose set that represents Pontius Pilate's Roman palace in Morocco.

"I think what it does it allows you to have a fuller understanding of that story because when you see the oppression of the times that they are living in, when you understand that danger lurks in every alley, and the inhumanity of the times," she said.

The original series took advantage of existing sets in Ouarzazate, Morocco which has hosted Bible-themed films for decades, but this time around,



In this image released by NBC, Juan Pablo Di Pace portrays Jesus in a scene from "A.D. The Bible Continues."

show creators decided to build their own highly detailed sets in the middle of the rolling desert hills outside of the city.

Workmen created the streets and shops of ancient Jerusalem and Damascus as well as the sumptuous confines of Pilate's palace—an investment into future seasons of the show. Downey points out that with the Bible as source material, the show could go on for quite some time.

The attempt for a more realistic approach to the period extends to the characters.

Pilate, played by the icy blueeyed Vincent Regan ("300," "Troy," "Clash of the Titans") is the Roman governor of an occupation that is only tenuously in control of a land. He has to juggle between competing factions and somehow keep the peace.

Forever tarnished with the stigma of washing his hands at Christ's death, Pilate's decision to allow the execution in the series makes a certain degree of sense.

"When Jesus was killed, there were over a million people in the city at the time (for Passover). As far as he was concerned, he was faced with a no-win situation: He either crucifies this one guy or all hell breaks loose and there would be rioting," said Regan, resplendent in his costume of Roman armor.

Pilate not only has to contend with the city's competing factions but his own wife Claudia (Joanne Whaley, Willow), whose sleep is troubled by visions of Christ and opposes her husband's increas-

ingly desperate efforts to crack down on the apostles.

In their tense exchanges, he finds himself having to angrily justify his actions to her—"the man was a danger to the status quo"—as he tries to govern restive outpost of the Roman Empire.

The series has several strong female roles in it, including Leah, the ambitious wife of High Priest Caiaphas (Richard Coyle), who pushes her husband to amass more power.

The role of Mary Magdalene is also central. While she doesn't quite attain the status of head of the nascent church given her by Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code," she is clearly one of the key members of the group as it tries to figure what comes next after the crucifixion.

"Our interpretation is that while many organizations are fronted by men, women were the ones that kept the cogs moving," said Chipo Chung, the actress that plays Mary and has appeared previously in "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock."

When the disciples begin to lose faith and talk of fleeing it is Mary Magdalene and Mother Mary herself that hold fast and shame them into keeping faith. "She stuck through it when all the guys faltered," said Chung.

The show is an ambitious attempt to bring in not just the millions that flocked to the original "Bible" series but also those attracted to tense political thrillers.

"This is not Sunday school," said Downey. "This is Sunday night drama."

### Cynthia Lennon, first wife of John Lennon, dies of cancer

LONDON (AP)Cynthia Lennon, the first wife of former Beatles guitarist John Lennon, died of cancer Wednesday at her home in Spain. She was 75.



Her death was an- Lennon nounced on the web-

site and Twitter account of her son, Julian Lennon and confirmed by his representative.

Julian Lennon posted a moving video tribute to his late mother with a song he had written in her honor.

"You gave your life for me, you gave your life for love," it begins, showing footage of him as a young boy with his parents. It also shows footage of Cynthia with John during the early days of Beatlemania.

"The love you left behind will carry on," Julian, 51, sings in a style influenced by his late father.

It concludes with the words: "I know you're safe above."

A statement from Julian's representative said Cynthia died at her home in Maallorca "following a short but brave battle with cancer." It said Julian was at his mother's bedside through-

Cynthia and John Lennon met at art school in Liverpool in 1957 and married shortly before the Beatles shot to worldwide fame. Julian was their only child together.

The couple divorced in 1968 after John Lennon started his much publicized relationship with Japanese

artist Yoko Ono. They had spent 10 years together as a couple.

Cynthia remarried several

The divorce prompted Paul McCartney to pen the Beatles' classic "Hey Jude" to help Julian cope with his parents' separation. He changed the name Julian to Jude in the song.

The line "Take a sad song and make it better," is about the Lennons' broken marriage and its impact on their son.

"The news of Cynthia's passing is very sad," McCartney wrote on his blog Wednesday.

"She was a lovely lady who I've known since our early days together in Liverpool,' he added. "She was a good mother to Julian and will be missed by us all, but I will always have great memories of our times together."

"Peace and love to Julian Lennon God bless Cynthia love Ringo and Barbaraxx," Ringo Starr tweeted.

# Joni Mitchell fans sending good vibes to hospitalized singer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joni Mitchell's famous fans are voicing their support and worry for the folk song icon while she is hospitalized in Los Angeles.

"Harry Potter" star Emma Watson said Wednesday on Twitter: "heard about Joni and haven't been able to concentrate all morning. So hope she's doing ok."

Kiss lead singer Paul Stanley tweeted a recent picture of himself and the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, telling his followers to send her love and prayers.

Kevin Bacon tweeted that he was "sending good wishes today to one of the finest singing, song-writing, guitar playing artists Mitchell in history."

Boy George, Bill Idol and Tori Amos were also among the well-wishers.

Mitchell, 71, was found un-

conscious in her home Tuesday night and taken to a hospital by ambulance, according to her Twitter account and website. She was later in intensive care and undergoing tests.

Her representatives did not immediately

respond to phone and email messages and there was no further word on her condition Wednesday.

Mitchell told Billboard magazine last year that she has a rare skin condition, Morgellons disease, which prevents her from performing.

A native Canadian who became part of Southern California's flourishing folk-rock scene in the 1960s, Mitchell has won eight Grammy Awards, including a lifetime achievement award in 2002. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

### Jeremy Renner, estranged wife, settle custody dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Oscar-nominated actor Jeremy Renner will share joint custody of his 2-year-old daughter with his estranged wife after the pair reached a custody agreement after a day of negotiations on Wednesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Whitaker approved the settlement, which calls for Renner to pay his wife \$13,000 a month in child support.

Sonni Pacheco, a model, filed for divorce from Renner in early December, less than a year after the pair had a secret wedding.

A hearing had been scheduled for Thursday in the pair's custody dispute. Both sides had each raised issues with the other's parenting of their daughter.

As part of the agreement, Renner and Pacheco agreed not to make disparaging remarks about their former partner in front of their daughter and will fashion a



In this March 1, 2014 file photo, Jeremy Renner arrives at the 2014 Film Independent Spirit Awards, in Santa Monica, Calif.

parenting plan along with a therapist. The settlement also lays out how Renner can make up time with his daughter when he is out of Los Angeles on film shoots.

Renner, 44, hugged his attorney Laura Wasser after

the settlement was approved. The actor had been prepared to testify at a hearing on child support and custody issues, but the proceedings were delayed while negotiations were ongoing.

"Both parties greatly adore

their daughter," Pacheco's attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan said after the hearing. He said the pair would "work together to make these orders work in a way that makes their daughter a winner today.'

### New Mitch Albom novel a story of world-famous guitarist

NEW YORK (AP)-Mitch Albom's next novel will have strings attached. Harper, an imprint

of HarperCollins Publishers, announced Wednesday that Al-Magic Albom bom's "The of Frankie

Presto" will come out Nov. 10. The title character is a worldfamous guitar player whose life takes readers through a mini-



history of modern music, from Duke Ellington and Hank Williams to Carole King and KISS.

Harper is calling the book a "Forrest Gump'-like romp."

Albom is known for such best-sell-

ers as the novel "The First Phone Call from Heaven" and the memoir "Tuesdays With Morrie."

# 'Boyhood'actress Patricia Arquette planning memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Academy Award winner Patricia Arquette has lot more to say off screen than her Oscar acceptance speech.

The actress cited in February for her performance in "Boyhood" has a deal with Random House for a memoir about her "unconventional family," single parenthood and life in Hollywood, the publisher announced Wednesday. The book is currently untitled and a release date

has not been set.

Arquette, who turns 46 next week, is the granddaughter of character actor and "Hollywood Squares" celebrity Cliff Arquette (aka "Charlie Weaver") and the daughter of

actor Lewis Arquette. She has been married twice, including to fellow actor Nicholas Cage, and has two children. Her other films include "True Romance" and "Bringing Out the Dead."

# Hungry therapist should plan ahead for late-morning snack

EAR ABBY: We have a daughter with severe developmental disabilities. Thankfully, she receives 40plus hours of in-home therapy a week, which is covered by insurance.

Her first therapist arrives at 7:30 a.m. and leaves at 11:30 a.m. Some days, she will pick up something to eat on the way. Most days, I suspect she hasn't eaten breakfast.

About once a week she'll call out for me, asking for a snack—usually a breakfast sandwich—which I make for her. Last week, she asked for some chocolate-covered nuts I had offered her once. I told her we had eaten them. I finally put out a bowl of old hard candy to stop her from asking. She has been eating it for a while now and joking that I'm making her

Must I continue providing her snacks or say something about her bringing her own? I am grateful for the work she does for our daughter and hope I'm not sounding petty.

UNSURE IN KANSAS

**DEAR UNSURE:** You should not be responsible for feeding your daughter's therapist. Have a talk with the therapist and suggest that if she's "out of fuel" at the end of your daughter's session that she bring some individually wrapped cheese sticks or fruit with her. It would be a lot healthier than what

you're giving her and probably better for her.

DEAR ABBY: My 18-year-old son and his fiancee have been kicked out of a few apartments and have asked to live with me. Wanting to help him, I agreed.

When they moved in, I gave them four rules to follow: No drugs in the house, no sex, no coming upstairs after 10 p.m., and the dishes must be done every night or they will pay \$400 a month rent.

Well, a week ago I caught them doing drugs, so I called the cops. They were arrested that night. They are now asking to come back. I refuse to allow it because I have an 11-year-old at home with me and another 18-year-old who I want to keep away from this kind of influence.

My son keeps texting me and trying to guilt me into changing my mind because he got his fiancee pregnant. Where I live it gets very cold, but I need to show my other children it's not OK to do drugs.

Am I doing the right thing by not letting them come back, or am I a heartless mother like he says?

MOM OF TOUGH LOVE

DEAR MOM: Regardless of what your son says, you are not heartless. You took him in with certain conditions. He and his girlfriend abused your trust, and you handled the situation

### **DEAR ABBY**

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



If the girl is really pregnant, she should not be using drugs. If she's hooked on something, she needs to get into a rehabilitation program ASAP. If she has parents, perhaps they will take her in. But you have done your part, and if you allow your son and his girlfriend to stay with you, they will continue to break your rules and you'll wind up responsible for them and the baby—or two or three. I advise against it.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Sundown marks the first night of Passover. Happy Passover, everyone!

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested - poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

**26** FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes

### **Bv Bill Waterson**

### **Garfield**®

By Jim Davis









By Bryan Basset







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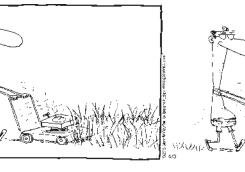
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### The Duplex





# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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**STUMPED?** 

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A KingCELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cobie Smulders, 33; Adam Scott, 42; Eddie Murphy, 54; Alec Baldwin, 57.

Happy Birthday: Act on your emotions this year, and you will gain respect and command attention. You can accomplish plenty if you are passionate, progressive and refuse to sit back and wait for others to go first. Wear your heart on your sleeve, stand up for your beliefs and you will stabilize your position, your surroundings and your future. Your numbers are 6, 13, 17, 22, 30, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An emotional issue regarding work is likely to arise. A straightforward approach will be in your best interest. Look at the positive side to whatever situations you face and you will find the best course of action to take. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't make assumptions or play a guessing game with someone who can influence your future or your reputation. Offer everything you can to ensure you come out on top. Try to control your situation instead of being controlled. •••

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make a point of lending a helping hand, and you will reap unexpected rewards. Don't let anyone lead you in the wrong direction regarding a work-related problem. Learn from past experience and do what you feel will resolve the issues you face. OOOOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get whatever job you've been given out of the way. Keep a low profile and refuse to let anyone force you into a debate. Concentrate on your needs and do what makes you feel most at

ease. Protect yourself physically, mentally and emotionally.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your intelligence to good use. Using brains over brawn will bring the best results. Travel and communicating with friends and family will spark good ideas that can counteract someone's attempts to disrupt your plans. A minimalist approach will pay off. 2000

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Have fun. Taking part in a social event or expanding your interests will improve your state of mind and bring about ideas that can help you improve your skills or your looks. Love is in the stars and romance is encouraged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't procrastinate; make the changes that are needed to improve your life personally or professionally. Take the plunge and start something new. Don't let emotional issues stand between you and your success. Discussions will bring good results. ❖❖❖

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be too trusting. Keep personal information a secret until you know exactly where you stand with someone. Love is highlighted, but overreacting will stand between you and romance. Keep your thoughts to yourself. Offer affection, not criticism.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've got what it takes to make things happen. Live up to your potential and make the improvements to your situation that will bring you greater satisfaction and joy. Nothing will happen unless you make it so. •••

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Say little and do a lot. Take action, but don't expect everyone to be happy with the decisions you make. The changes you make at home or to your personal life will be beneficial in time. Don't back down. OOOO

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make an effort to position yoursen same and you will achieve the advancement you are looking for. Anger will not help you, but intelligence will. Speak your mind and offer constructive solutions that will separate you from any competition you face.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A passionate approach to whatever you do will lead to success. Speak from the heart and don't give in if there is something you want. It's up to you to stand firm and implement what you want to see happen.

Birthday Baby: You are original, versatile, and quick-witted. You are worldly and diplomatic.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.lv/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

Conceptis Sudoku

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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### By DAVID WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY, DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wordenword.

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### Auto Marine Inc. is seeking for (1) Motor Boat Mechanic

Must have five years experier in overhauling engines.

Interested applicants, please send your resume to santos\_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

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### is looking for (2) Car Rental Agent

- Must be knowledgeable in car rental business

Interested applicants, please call 1-(670)-989-4076 or send your resume to usavecarrentals@gmail.com

### GMA Corp. D/B/A NMI Contractor P.O. Box 503317 CK, Saipan MP 96950

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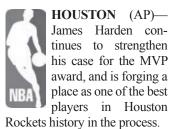


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# Harden's career-high 51 lead Rockets over Kings, 115-111



He had a career-high 51 points, and the Rockets squandered a huge early lead but held on for a 115-111 win over the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.

The performance surpassed Harden's previous career best of 50 points, which came on March 19. It's his 33rd 30-point game this season and the ninth time he's scored 40 this season, which both lead the NBA.

He's the first player in the history of a franchise with Hall of Famers Hakeem Olajuwon and Moses Malone to have two 50-point games in a season. There have only been 10 in team history.

"He finds a way to wow our team every time he goes out there," Houston's Trevor Ariza said. "He's just so crafty and he can score so many different ways. It's definitely fun to watch."

Houston was up by nine with about eight minutes left when Sacramento used a 9-2 spurt to get within 104-102 with 5 1/2 remaining. An 8-0 run by Harden, which he capped with a 3-point play, pushed the lead to 112-104.

Four straight points by the Kings cut the lead to four with less than a minute left, but they didn't score after that.

DeMarcus Cousins led the Kings with his second career triple-double with 24 points, 21 rebounds and 10 assists after missing Monday's game to rest. He also tied a career best with six blocks.

"I've never coached a guy that can put up so many things into a game," Kings coach George Karl said. "He has a triple-double, but really has a quadruple-double because he had six blocks, three steals and at least one or maybe two charges. There are another 10 possessions he gave us because of his defensive abilities."

Harden, who scored 17 points in the third quarter, had 49 points before knocking down a pair of free throws with less than two minutes left to eclipse his previous high-point game.

The Rockets led by as many as 19 points in the first half before Sacramento rallied to take the lead early in the third quarter.

Harden, who is second in the league in scoring, tied a career best by making eight of nine 3-pointers, and Ariza had six and finished with 22 points.

"Shooting 8-of-9 from 3 is hard to do," coach Kevin McHale said. "It's hard to do when you're by yourself, much less in a game when everything is contested."

Both teams played without a star. The Rockets were miss-



ing Dwight Howard, who isn't playing both games of back-to-backs since returning from a two-month absence with swelling in his right knee. He'll play Thursday night at Dallas.

Sacramento's Rudy Gay, who is averaging 20.9 points a game, sat out after getting a concussion Monday night

Harden said he doesn't change the way he plays when Howard isn't on the floor.

"If the attack is there, then I take it," he said. "If not, I find the assist, find one of my teammates open and I'll pass the ball. Similar to every single game I play in."

The game was tied at 70 after a 3-pointer by Ben McLemore with about 7 minutes left in the third quarter. Houston used a 9-2 run to take a 79-72 lead. Ray McCallum's 3-pointer soon after that got Sacramento within 5, before Harden took over.

He scored their next 11 points, while the Kings managed just one basket, to extend the lead to 93-79 with two minutes left in the quarter.

Houston led by five early in the third quarter before Sacramento scored six straight points, with four from Cousins, to take a 61-60 lead.

The Rockets were up by 19 after opening the second quarter with an 11-0 run. The Kings got going after that, using a 14-2 spurt, punctuated by a dunk by Cousins, to cut the lead to 48-41 midway through the quarter.

A 3-pointer by Harden a couple of minutes later made it 54-45, but Sacramento scored the next eight points to get within 54-53 two minutes before halftime.

The Rockets led 58-55 at halftime.

### **Spurs 103, Magic 91**

In Orlando, Fla., Aron Baynes had 18 points, Manu Ginobili added 13 and San Antonio clinched a playoff berth with a win over Orlando.

San Antonio, which posted its fifth straight victory, is 15-3 since Feb. 27 and has made the postseason in 18 consecutive seasons. It was the Spurs' eighth straight win over Orlando.

Victor Oladipo led the Magic with 24 points, while Nik Vucevic added 16 points and 11 rebounds. Orlando has lost four straight, and 10 out of its last 11.

Playing in the second game of a back-to-back, the Spurs were able to rest forward Tim Duncan. He started, but played just 12 minutes, scoring six points.

### **Wizards 106, 76ers 93**

In Washington, Marcin Gortat scored 23 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Bradley Beal added 20 points, and Washington defeated Philadelphia.

John Wall chipped in 13 points and 15 assists for Washington, which had lost five of six.

The Wizards (42-33), who clinched a playoff spot Monday, began play three games behind the Raptors for fourth place in the Eastern Conference.

Ish Smith tied his season high with 23 points and Isaiah Canaan added 18 for the 76ers (18-58), who have lost four straight overall and 18 of 19 on the road.

### Celtics 100, Oacers 87

In Boston, Kelly Olynyk scored 19 points after nearly missing the game with an eye injury sustained hours before tip-off, and Boston beat Indiana in a matchup of Eastern Conference playoff hopefuls.

Tyler Zeller scored 17 of his 19 points in the first half and Evan Turner finished with 13 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for Boston, which is a half-game out of a playoff spot. The Celtics sit just behind Brooklyn and Miami, who are tied for seventh place in the East.

George Hill had 21 points and Rodney Stuckey scored 16 for the Pacers, who lost for the ninth time in 11 games and fell two games behind Boston.

### **Nets 100, Knicks 98**

In New York, Brook Lopez's follow shot with 2 seconds left gave the Brooklyn Nets their fifth straight victory and a share of seventh place in the Eastern Conference, as they beat the New York Knicks.

The Nets blew a 16-point, second-half lead but escaped what could have been a crushing loss thanks to Lopez's effort on the boards on their last possession.

Deron Williams had 26 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in one of his best games of the season. And when he missed in the lane with the game tied at 98, Lopez tipped the ball once, then knocked it in on his second attempt.

Andrea Bargnani scored 22 points for the Knicks, who lost their eighth straight.

### Hornets 102, Pistons 78

In Charlotte, N.C., Marvin Williams scored 18 points and Charlotte cruised past Detroit.

Kemba Walker had 17 points and Gerald Henderson added 14

Houston Rockets' James Harden points upward after hitting a three-point shot against the Denver Nuggets in the final seconds of an NBA basketball game Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Houston.

as the Hornets won for only the third time in 10 games to keep pace in the Eastern Conference playoff race. Charlotte entered the night two games behind eighth-place Brooklyn.

Before the game, Hornets center Al Jefferson had his knee drained for the third time in eight days. He finished with 11 points and nine rebounds, sitting out the fourth quarter because of the big lead.

Jodie Meeks led Detroit with 15 points. Andre Drummond was in early foul trouble and finished with 13 points and nine rebounds.

### Mavericks 135, Thunder 131

In Oklahoma City, Monta Ellis scored 26 points, and Dallas withstood a triple-double from Russell Westbrook to beat Oklahoma City.

Westbrook finished with 31 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. It was his 10th triple-double of the season, the 17th of his career and his eighth since the All-Star break.

Anthony Morrow scored 32 points and Enes Kanter added a career-high 30 points and 16 rebounds for the Thunder. According to STATS, it was the first time a team had three players score at least 30 points in a game since Westbrook, Kevin Durant and James Harden did it for Oklahoma City on March 7, 2012.

Chandler Parsons added 22 points for the Mavericks, who had seven players score in double figures.

### Bucks 95, Bulls 91

In Milwaukee, Michael Carter-Williams had 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead Milwaukee Bucks to a rare victory at home over Chicago.

The Bucks (37-38), who lost their previous nine home games against the Bulls, also got 16 points from Ersan Ilyasova. Milwaukee won for just the third time in its last 11 games and maintains a 2 1/2-game lead over Miami and Brooklyn for sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Chicago's seven-game winning streak against Milwaukee ended despite 25 points and seven rebounds from Jimmy Butler.

Pau Gasol added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who have lost seven of their last nine on the road.

### Raptors 113, Timberwolves 99

In Minneapolis, Lou Williams scored 18 points to lead a balanced Toronto offense as the Raptors defeated the Minnesota

Timberwolves

Six players scored at least 13 points for the Raptors, who shot 55.3 percent from the field. DeMar DeRozan had 17 points, Terrance Ross 16, Jonas Valanciunas 15, Greivis Vasquez 14 and James Johnson chipped in 13 for Toronto.

Andrew Wiggins scored 25 points, Zach LaVine had 22 and Chase Budinger added 19 for Minnesota, which lost its fourth straight.

### Jazz 98, Nuggets 84

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert scored a career-high 20 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had two blocks as Utah cruised past Denver. Gobert was coming off his 22nd double-double of the season Monday.

The Nuggets scored 29 first-quarter points, then 30 in the second and third quarters combined. Derrick Favors scored 19, had seven rebounds and three blocks as the Jazz frontcourt dominated. Dante Exum had a careerhigh 12 assists.

Kenneth Faried scored 19 points and added 10 rebounds for the Nuggets, while Ty Lawson finished with 15.

### Pelicans 113, Lakers 92

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis scored 20 points and the New Orleans Pelicans inched closer to a possible playoff berth with a rout of the Los Angeles Lakers.

New Orleans' third straight victory, coupled with Oklahoma City's 135-131 loss to Dallas, brought the Pelicans within 1 1/2 games of the Thunder for eighth place in the Western Conference and completed a four-game season sweep of the Lakers. Six players scored in double digits for New Orleans, including Norris Cole with 17 off the bench.

Jordan Clarkson had 18 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the lottery-bound Lakers, who dropped to 11-25 at home and 20-53 overall.

### Clippers 126, Trail Blazers 122

In Portland, Ore., Chris Paul had a season-high 41 points and 17 assists and the Los Angeles Clippers rallied in the second half for a victory over the Trail Blazers, denying Portland a chance at clinching the Northwest Division title.

The loss snapped a fourgame winning streak for the Blazers, who needed a win to secure their first division title since the 2008-09 season when they shared it with Denver.

J.J. Redick added 25 points, including five 3-pointers, and eight rebounds for the Clippers, who trailed by as many as 19 points in the first half and then held off a furious Portland rally at the end.

LaMarcus Aldridge led the Blazers with 29 points.

# Final Four teams have 4 different sets of drug-testing rules

**NDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Four teams, four drug-testing policies.

Players at Kentucky, Wisconsin, Michigan State and Duke operated under the same rules on their road to the Final Four this season—except when it came to the frequency of their doping tests and the

penalties they faced for failing.

All players fall under the umbrella

of the NCAA drug-testing program, which tests urine for performance-enhancing and recreational drugs at its championship events and for PEDs during infrequent visits to campus the rest of the year. The main source of deterrence? The programs in place at individual schools.

The NCAA's chief medical officer is among those who would like to see changes. "I think it can be improved, and I'd say it could be improved considerably," said Brian Hainline, who was appointed to the newly created position in 2013.

There are some small changes up for consideration. However, even if those changes occur, the standards could be as varied as the 351 Division I universities.

"It would be like an international sport having one set of rules for the U.S., and another set of rules for Canada," says Bob Copeland, who dismantled the PED-addled program at Waterloo University in Canada when he was athletic director. "Then, they all show up at the Olympics and play each other."

Copeland is among those who call the lack of a uniform testing program in college sports a glaring blind spot for

the NCAA, which tries to regulate almost everything from recruiting, to paying players, to gambling and more. He's not alone.

"How ironic that the NCAA has this TV contract that brings in billions of dollars for the tournament, but no consistent rules to protect the integrity of what they're selling," said Travis Tygart, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

The diffuse policies in play at the Final Four, and around the country, do have a few things in common:

- They have relatively limited lists of banned substances.
- They don't test blood for human-growth hormone.
- They have no means of dealing with cases that don't involve a positive test but show other evidence of drug use. That's how Lance Armstrong and several athletes implicated in the BALCO scandal lost their records.
- Most schools don't have an independent agency to evaluate results and mete out punish-



Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim pauses during a news conference Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Syracuse, N.Y.

ment, which can put administrators at odds with their coaching staffs and athletic departments.

The confusion over the wideranging drug-testing policies have had an impact on highprofile events and programs this season.

Syracuse was put on probation for five years and coach Jim Boeheim was suspended for nine games for violations that included failure to adhere to a drug-testing program that was deemed too confusing by school administrators. The NCAA recommends schools adopt their own drug policies but can then sanction schools for not following them.

Meanwhile, in January, two Oregon players were left behind for the college football title game after positive drug tests. At least one of those was for marijuana. Shortly after that, an NCAA committee recommended an overhaul of some facets of the drug-testing policy-most notably that marijuana testing on the national level be scrapped in favor of education and intervention. Alcohol and narcotics would be added to the list of recreational drugs that need to be more closely monitored.

That recommendation will likely be voted on next year.

"The takeaway from that can't be, 'We're not going to

test for pot," said Hainline, a former USADA board member who now leads the NCAA's medical group. "It means schools have to get invested and have to be willing to carry this out. It has to happen at a grassroots level. The NCAA can't be the police dog for alcohol and narcotics use at every campus in the country."

Hainline is also pushing for more uniform testing policies around the country, an effort he says could come from the five biggest conferences. Of those, only the Big Ten and Big 12 have conference-wide policies. The ACC, SEC and Pac-12 leave the issue to the individual schools, though Hainline said he's heard from those commissioners that they'd like to consider rethinking the policy.

Until that happens, teams will continue to play under different rules.

Take the teams in Indianapolis this weekend.

At Duke, the penalty for a first offense involving PEDs is the minimum of a one-year suspension. Kentucky calls for a player to miss 10 percent of his games for a first violation, but doesn't specify between PEDs and recreational drugs. Wisconsin's policy doesn't differentiate between recreational drugs and PEDs, and calls for no mandatory suspension after a first offense. Michigan State calls for

a 30-day suspension for PEDs.

The last two schools are both in the Big Ten, which has its own policy that calls for a yearlong suspension after a first positive.

"Bottom line is, you need a common standard so you have a level playing field," said Copeland, who now works at McLaren Global Sports Solutions on issues involving integrity in sports.

Other facets Hainline would like to see include:

- All schools have tests evaluated at labs accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency.
- More tests and smarter testing. Currently, the NCAA conducts more than 11,000 tests a year on Division I and II campuses (there are more than 400,000 athletes across all divisions). Hainline would like to see an increased chance that testers could show up on a campus more than once a year.
- A standard penalty of a one-year suspension for a first PED violation.

All these would help beef up a program Hainline concedes is lacking.

But the NCAA membership is typically slow-moving and reluctant to change.

"The bottom line is, clean sport and the rights of clean athletes demand it," Tygart said. "You have to at least make an effort to make a change."



# MP United, Vivid Blue keep strong ties

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Vivid Blue visited Saipan last week for a series of friendly games and cultural exchanges with sister club MP United and Garapan Elementary School.

The Sizuoka, Japan-based club delegation was led by its president and founder Sa-

chiko Tahara, who brought with her 10 players to compete against MP United's U12 teams. Vivid Blue's

roster were composed of Hizuki Katayama, Junki Tsumeda, Hokuto Tsujita, Kouta Muramatsu, Naoki Mizuno, Riku Tanaka, Hayato Tsujita, Yohei Shoji, Rikuya Kageyama, and Kakeru Tomotaka.

The visiting squad defeated MP United U12 B, 1-0, in the first friendly match last week at the GES Field and settled for a 3-3 draw against MP United U12A in the final game of the

day. MP United U12A downed MP United U12B in the second match, 2-0.

"The games were a great opportunity for MPU U12 team members to play with their friends from Vivid Blue and everybody had a great time," team manager May Ling Colombo

The friendly matches made

up for the Pacific Ocean Cup, which MP United was supposed to host after Vivid Blue held the previous one last year.

"We were not able to host the Pacific Ocean Cup on Saipan this trip since the delegation was not able to travel over the weekend. Some of our players had school and some of our volunteers worked during the weekdays. We are hoping to make the trip to Japan again to play in Vivid Blue's hosting of the next Pacific Ocean Cup," MP United president Vickie Izuka said.

MP United and Vivid Blue

have been visiting each other since 2009, one year after former MP United president Sue Knecht met Tahara and worked for the first MPU team (boys U14) that traveled and competed in Japan.

"Many of these boys have gone on to become college football players or are helping MPU in coaching and officiating, too. Since that time, Vivid Blue has been working hard to visit Saipan annually and MPU has also organized trips to Japan every 1 to 2 years," Izuka added.

Tahara, on the other hand, said the Saipan trip gives Vivid Blue players added motivation to work hard on their games.

"They are motivated to work extra hard during games and practices so they could join team and go to Saipan," Tahara

Besides competing on Saipan, Vivid Blue players also love to visit historical sites on the island and meet fellow students.

"Saipan has a rich history

about World War II and Japan. The kids also love to talk with MP United players and other Saipan students," Tahara said.

Tahara's wards attended GES for two half days and had cultural exchange with the Mallards.

"MP United FC is so fortunate to have such a wonderful friendship with Vivid Blue Soccer School and Ms. Tahara. This year, the delegation had a few younger players, ages 7-8, in addition to the usual 10-13

year old age group. Out of a delegation of 10, more than 50 percent were players who visited Saipan for the first time and the rest were returning players who've come to know and love Saipan and who've established bonds with MPU players as we've also taken teams to visit them in Japan in the past," Izuka said.

"Overall, this trip helps give our MPU players and families the opportunity to be good am-

bassadors/hosts to an international team. They learn about and respect others cultures and the trip gives more football and friendship opportunities to our players," added Izuka, who thanked MP United U15 manager Lydia Tan for organizing Vivid Blue's trip. "Having a super hostess makes all the difference to really create a fun and smooth trip for the Vivid Blue delegation. We also thank our members who hosted players and organized gatherings, and Garapan Elementary School for the cultural exchange."



A Vivid Blue player dribbles away from an MP United defender during their friendly game last week at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

# Organizing committee discusses teams' food concerns

By JON PEREZ

The 2015 Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior and Big League regional tournament organizing committee has discussed concerns and other restrictions on food that will be served to all participating teams.

Regional tournament director James Ada has appointed Annie Flores and Lynn Duenas to go and choose the right caterer that will prepare the food of all delegates of the annual event, that Saipan will be hosting from June 26 to July 5.

Four caterers have so far submitted their quotations to the organizing committee.

Ada, during last Wednesday's meeting, said that some of the food that would be served to several delegates might be pro-

and 12K trail run. He ruled

the 40 to 44 age group, beat-

ing Saipan's Peter Prestley

(3:46:55) and Ernie Moises

Fortier lorded it over in the

non-pro category despite crash-

ing three times along the treach-

erous bike course. He finished

the bike race in 1:56:41, which

was still good for No. 12 spot

and had split times of 21:48 and

1:04:52 in the swim and bike

"I crashed three times, the

first one on the pavement before

the turn to the judge's property

(Navy Hill) on a right corner

coming downhill. I slid for

10 feet on my side as my ped-

als were locked and I thought

I was going to hit a concrete

barrier with my head. It's the

same place where Olivier

legs, respectively.

**FORTIER** 

From Page 32

(5:07:23)

hibited to them because of their religious beliefs.

Indonesia, for example, is a Muslim country and they are forbidden to eat pork while most of India's more than one billion population are Hindu and hence they don't eat beef since they consider the cow as a sacred animal.

Some players or a member of their delegation might also be practicing vegetarians

and may skip any form of meat. The committee wants to make

sure that they won't violate any of the delegates' religious or spiritual beliefs.

Flores and Duenas added that they would also make sure that the winning caterer has enough staff to properly pack and deliver the food on time. The organizing committee will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner to all delegates.

Twenty teams from 11 countries have so far confirmed of joining the tournament with host CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines competing in all three divisions.

> Hong Kong and Indonesia are also competing in the Junior and Senior leagues, while Chinese Taipei will be sending teams to the Junior and

Big leagues. Australia and Vietnam will field Junior League teams, and New Zealand and Saudi Arabia are joining the Senior division.

India already has a Big League team but, according to Duenas, her contact at the Indian Little League said in an email that they plan to also compete in all three divisions.

Marceau crashed. The second was in a technical section after the judge's house and I broke a spoke. The last one was near the end steep technical muddy section on the way to a house," said Fortier, who did not consider quitting the rain-soaked race de-

spite his repeated misfortunes. "I don't consider quitting races unless my bike is broken or I'm injured to a point that it's not safe," he said, adding that he plans to return to Saipan next year to do both races anew.

Meanwhile, last year's XTERRA Saipan non-pro top finisher Charlie Sendin of Saipan settled for second place overall outside the pro ranks, but won the 30 to 34 age group. He clocked in at 3:27:50 (split times of 23:32, 1:56:47, and 1:07:31) to beat Japan's Wataru Takagi, who posted 4:45:47 (21:37, 3:14:23, and 1:09:47).

Other top finishers in the men's age group were 14 to 19's Jerome Diyco (4:19:59), 25 to 29's Tobias Theisen (4:29:59), 35 to 39's Keisuke Hirano (3:58:53). 45 to 49's Taro Urashima (3:59:38), 50 to 54's Yuji Ono (3:35:50), and 55 to 59's Alex Oviedo (4:34:12)

Theisen prevailed over Will Schroeder (5:09:56), while Hirano won over Leevin Camacho (4:01:53), Nathan Mapson (4:28:59), Joel Phair (4:51:26), and Leo Wania (6:28:32). Urashima also downed four other entries in his age group, which had Tyce Mister (4:00:40). Jun Haneda (4:04:05), Mark Cruz (4:23:49), and Yoshihiro Hiwatashi (4:37:54).

One finished ahead of Mark Walters (3:54:55), Tatsuva Sugimori (4:06:43), and Noel Altamirano (4:27:57), while Oviedo edged Florence Antonio (4:36:35). Makoto Katayama (5:08:07) and Manny Sitchon (5:47:23) were the other finishers in the 55 to 59 division.

From Page 32 replacing strikeout king Vince

Cepeda, who pitched 2.1 innings in relief. He had a quick two innings on the mound.

Celis, in the bottom of the ninth, forced Cody Kaipat and Ron Whylre to fly out to center fielder Omar for quick two outs—throwing a combined three pitches against the two Fielders. batters. He tossed four pitches before striking out Tom Guerrero to end the game.

Omar, meanwhile, made his heroics in the top of the ninth, and the score tied at 2-2. He had an RBI single, with one out, to leftcenter field to bring in Jesse Brel.

Jun Rabauliman, walked, also crossed home plate on Guerrero's fielding error, with Omar reaching third base in the process.

Omar made the Brewers' last run on another Fielders error. Celis then came in the bottom of the ninth and shutdown the

Omar went 3-for-5 with one run and two RBIs, while Marvin Kaipat scored once on a 2-for-4 appearance at the plate. Byron Kaipat had a double in the top

of the eighth going 2-for-5.

Leonard Sablan started for the Brewers and lasted for 4.2 innings surrendering one earned run on two hits with one strikeout and two walks, while Cepeda was tagged with one earned run on four hits with no walks and no strikeouts in 2.1 innings in relief.

Joe Palacios had a no-relief job on the mound for the Fielders giving up three earned runs on 13 hits with six strikeouts and three walks.

Kaipat and Verlance Secharmidal scored the Fielders' two runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

### SUN PALACE

From Page 32

**CELIS** 

will be between Vilma Reyes and Irish Pagarao. Reyes easily defeated Lani Santos, 21-11, 21-11, while Pagarao pulled off a 21-14, 22-20 win over Rose

Youngson Yu and Jongmin Lee hope to end up as the men's doubles A champions when they face Edralin and Jordan Pangilinan.

Yu and Lee hacked out a tough 15-21, 21-10, 21-15 decision over Buultjens and Oh Im Bog, while Edralin and Pangilinan disposed of Galvez and Zeke Macario, 21-17, 21-18.

Lee then teamed up with Oh to reach the men's doubles B finals where they will meet his father, Jun, and Hancheol Yu. Nathan Guerrero and partner Hajin Kim will face Takahashi and Daniel Kim for the men's

C title.

Janelle Pangilinan and Malasarte will try to end Cho and Lani Bartolome's unbeaten run when they collide in the women's A finals. Malasarte will then team up with Farro when they take on Maryln Montano and Lucelle Lampera for the women's B crown.

The women's C finals will be between Reyes and Baby Banadera against Santos and partner Gigi Zapanta.

# Saipan sports fans pick Final Four favorites

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO and JON PEREZ

roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com jon perez@saipantribune.com REPORTERS



Even though the site of year's NCAAB

Final Four in Indianapolis is more than 7,000 miles away from Saipan, hoops fans on island are still rooting for their favorite team to win it all this

Three No. 1s—Kentucky, Duke, and Wisconsin-and perennial powerhouse Michigan State (No. 7) have made it to the Final Four this weekend and by the looks of it our nine local prognosticators are split between the Duke Blue Devils and the perfect Kentucky Wildcats with a couple placing their bets on darkhorse Wisconsin Badgers and the underdog Michigan State Spartans.



Duke, just like I'm a Laker and Raider and Yankee fan. Diehard all

the way. Will never change regardless. Well for Duke first off, they have Coach K (Mike Krzyzewski). If there's any coach that is more experienced especially in the semis and finals, it would be him. Then you got a Duke big guy who can shoot, dribble, drive, defense, post up, etc. Pretty much he can do it all. And if he plays his game and gets the support he needs just like the game against Gonzaga, then they'll do good.

Lastly, Duke has a pretty good supporting cast. The freshman and sophomores are playing like pros in the past

M-LEAGUE FIXTURES

couple of games so all they tian) Laettner shot to win the Connie Camacho need to do is the same and they should be good against Michigan

Kentucky is the favorite, but it will definitely be a hell of a game should they both meet in the championship."

### James Lee

MARPAC sales manager for beverage and tobacco division



'It is really tough pick. All the teams have great talent along with great

coaching staff. I think Kentucky is the favorite, however their last game showed that they are beatable and gave confidence to the other teams. I am going to go with Duke this year. I believe that they are more likely to play up to the hype of the championship

### **Preston Basa**

MHS basketball team coach



" March Madness has been pretty crazy, but these four teams definitely de-

serve to play in the title game. Wisconsin has a pretty good offensive efficiency, while Kentucky has a solid defensive efficiency. Duke I think is the most balanced team with a strong will versus a let-itfly-from-downtown attitude of Michigan State. I'm going for the Wildcats (Kentucky) versus the Blue Devils (Duke) in the title game. But, Duke might need a miracle (Chris-

game. Wildcats may win it all. It's tough to play against a full Four Horsemen rotation of talented centers. They will anchor the Wildcats to a championship win!"

### Jerry Diaz

Hoopaholics basketball team player



"Kentucky will win it all, 40-0. They're undefeated for reason. They have

the height in their roster that makes it difficult for other teams to score and they also have a deep bench they can turn to for support. I love how they share the ball and play as

Many-time CNMI National Team



"I root for Kentucky. It has been more than 20 years since team won the NCAA

with no loses in a season, so perhaps it is time again for an undefeated champion."

### **Kurt Barnes**

NMSA vice president



"I don't like any of these teams."

Bob Coldeen KSPN new director



ACC guy, so I'm going for Duke, They are the perennial power-

house team, they have a good coach and system, and they have good recruits. I'm also hoping that Duke and Kentucky meet in the finals, since Kentucky is supposed to win it all."

### **Eli Rangamar**

BANMI developmental officer

len after beating Paire in the first

game in Division 1 last Sunday.

Four different players scored

for MP United, which got its

fourth win in six games. Joe

Miller nailed the first goal for

MP United, making it to the

board in the opening frame,

while Zu Zheng, Bob Kim, and

Sung Bae Park all scored in the

Gerrard Vangils bagged

the lone goal for Paire, which

signed up Allen, who played in

his first soccer game on Saipan

a day after conquering XTER-

second half.

RA Saipan.



"I'm betting for Michigan State and Wisconsin. I also like

an ranked teams but I always go for the underdogs because as a coach myself, I like to come from behind and win."

### **Tony Rogolifoi**

NMSA executive director



"I'm rooting Wisconsin and Michigan State. too, for two reasons. First, I'm a

Big 10 guy. Second, my only chance to win my tournament pool is if Kentucky loses."

### **Michael White**

NMSA president

### Marianas Pacific **Paddlers looking** for recruits

Are you looking for a new outdoor hobby or sport? Looking to supplement your workout with something new? Paddling outrigger canoe is an excellent way to strengthen your upper body and target your back, arms, shoulders, and core. Increase your strength and endurance, meet some new people, and experience the lagoon from a different perspective!

Marianas Pacific Paddlers is inviting all interested ladies to come down and paddle! If you are a beginner, no problem! Practices will cover proper technique, form, paddling safety, and etiquette.

The new sports organization is looking for women 18 years old and older (swimming skills preferred) to join them.

The first practice will be held this Monday, April 6, 5pm in the waters off Kilili Beach in Oleai. Monday and Wednesday are the practice days.

Those interested are advised to bring water, swimwear, a hat, sunscreen, paddle (if you have one), and a positive attitude!

For more information, call Gretchen at 789-0501 or Dana at 789-8801. You can also email Leilani DLG Nielsen at heavymana@ gmail.com or call her at 483-3922. **(PR)** 

seven games.

Meanwhile, the Thundercats booked its second victory this season after outclassing the CNMI Women's National Team last Wednesday, 4-1.

Yong Jun Jeon made a hattrick for the Thundercats, while Byung Kwan Ohng registered the other goal for the winning squad. Irish Pagarao recorded the only goal for WNT, which remained winless in six games.

### Shirley's, Tan Holdings retain Top 2 spots Australian pro triathlete Ben Al-

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Shirley's Football Club and Tan Holdings kept the Top 2 spots in the 2015 Dove

Women's Football League after posting contrasting wins this week at the Oleai Sports Com-

Shirley's got a free victory on its game against Independents FC last Saturday, winning via forfeiture, 3-0. The division leader retains its perfect record (8-0-0 win-draw-loss) for a three-win advantage against the second-running Tan Holdings (5-3-1), which crushed Paire FC, 9-0, last Tuesday.

Jennifer Perena anchored Tan Holdings' easy win with her hattrick. Chloe Salvosa chipped in two, while Wincel Bubos, Mary Kate Alferos, Renita Fleming, and Jhaza Mirano contributed one goal apiece.

Before its lopsided victory against Paire, Tan Holdings came off a 1-1 draw against the third-ranked Kanoa FC last Saturday. Salvosa hit the lone goal for Tan Holdings, while Jeralyn Castillo scored for Kanoa.

The Kanoa-Tan Holdings match was the only game played last Saturday in the women's division, as MP United also won via forfeit against Paire.

### **M-LEAGUE** MP United 4, Paire 1

MP United spoiled the debut of



A Tan Holdings FC player goes for a kick, while a Paire defender stays close to her during the second half of their game in the 2015 Dove Women's Football League last Tuesday night at the Oleai Sports Com-

### Wild Bill's 7, KFAS 1

In the second game in Division 1, Wild Bill's whipped Korean Football Association on Saipan.

Adul Detdon led Wild Bill's sixth win in seven games, converting a pair of goals. Tanapon Unsa, Thanyakorn Konkoed, Terence Evan Belcher, Tyler Willsey, and Daniel Westphal chipped in one goal each. Brian Lee tallied the only goal for KFAS.

### Kanoa 2, Shirley's 1

In the first Division 2 tiff, Kanoa edged Shirley's.

Jherico Tiamzon and Davy Laxa found the back of the net in the second half to give Kanoa its fifth win and help his team keep the second spot in the team standings behind idle Matansa (5-1-2).

Muneaki Arai also hit the board in the second half for Shirley's, which improved to a 3-3-3 mark for third place in the seven-team field.

### Sun Palace 1, World Resort O

In the other Division 2 match last weekend, Sun Palace slipped past World Resort.

hand his team its third win in

16 12 12 8 Kanoa 22 20 10 15 13 15 20 13 11 16 28 0 -3 4 -3 -17 Shirlev's Sun Palace Thundercats World Resort **WOMEN'S DIVISION** 

Feng Chen Jin lit up the board for Sun Palace in the first half to

### **MEN'S DIVISION 1** Pos GA GD Team 11 10 11 Tan Holdings 18 15 13 7 6 0 9 13 15 31 5 -9 -28 **MEN'S DIVISION 2** 2 3 4 5 6 7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Shirley's Tan Holdings Kanoa MP United IFC Matansa Paire	8 9 8 8 8 6 7	8 5 4 4 2 1 0	0 3 2 1 0 0	0 1 2 3 6 5 7	24 18 14 13 6 3 0	32 26 22 16 8 8	2 13 15 20 22 17 27	30 13 7 -4 -1 -9
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### **UPCOMING GAMES**

April 7 (Women's) 7:15pm Matansa vs MP United April 11

4pm Shirley's vs MP United 6pm Tan Holdings vs IFC 8pm Matansa vs Kanoa

April 12 (Men's)
2pm Wild Bills vs Inter Godfathers
4pm Tan Holdings vs MP United 6pm Sun Palace vs Shirley's 8pm Matansa vs Thundercats

**32** FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015

Harden's career-high 51 lead Rockets over Kings, 115-111 PAGE 28



Saipan sports fans pick Final Four favorites

**PAGE 31** 



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Celis, Omar tow Brewers back to finals



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oy Celis tossed two shutout innings while Tyron Omar had an RBI single in the GSM Brewers' 5-2 win over the IP&E Fielders in the playoffs of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Celis closed out for the Brewers and needed only a combined seven pitches in the bottom of the ninth to end the Fielders' post-

season run via a two-game sweep of their best-of-three semis series.

Byron Kaipat of the GSM Brewers wait for the throw of IP&E Fielders pitcher Joe Palacios in Game 2 of their best-of-three semifinals match last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field. Roy Celis, inset, tossed two shutout innings to seal the Brew-

The Brewers clinched the first championship berth and now wait for the winner of the Falcons-Saipan Stevedore Yankees playoffs series

for their finals opponent. Game 1 of the finals, if the Fielders and Yankees play a third game, begins on April 13.

The Falcons will try to close out their own series against the Yankees on Monday, April 6. Game 3, if necessary, will be played on April 8, Wednesday.

Celis, a 2014 Micronesian Games silver medalist, came in at the bottom of the eighth

See CELIS on Page 30

# Fortier completes Saipan Sportsfest sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

er tag in last Saturday's 2015

Canadian triathlete Charles Fortier capped his stint in the Saipan with Sportsfest



Fortier, who was also the first non-pro finisher in Tagaman, was the fastest, too in his field in last week-

off-road race after timing in at 3:23:21 in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30K bike,

**See FORTIER on** 

Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Canada's Charles Fortier is in a pensive mood before the start of the swim leg of the rain-soaked 2015 XTERRA Saipan Championship last Saturday.

# Sun Palace badminton finalists set

By JON PEREZ

REPORTER

The finals in the nine divisions of the Sun Palace Singles and Doubles Competition 2015 badminton tournament are all set with men's and women's A top seeds Andreau Galvez and Hannah Choi living up to their respective lofty billings.

Galvez will be facing Deether Edralin in the men's A finals after each dispatching Glenn Buultjens and Jordan Pangilinan in last weekend's semifinals matches. Choi and challenger Janelle Pangilinan easily arranged a women's finals showdown after both of their opponents failed to show up.

Galvez needed three sets before ending Buultjens' finals bid, 21-10, 20-22, 21-17, while Edralin scored a tough 21-14, 21-16 decision against Pangilinan. Buultjens and Pangilinan will face off in the battle for

Deether Edralin, left, and Jordan Pangilinan will try to avenge their elimination round loss to Youngson Yu and Jongmin Lee when they face off anew for the men's doubles A crown two weekends from now.



Newbies Daniel Kim and Mikiya Takahashi will contend for the men's C title after last year's champion A.J. Ortega was eliminated by Owen Ou, 21-17, 2118, in their knockout match.

Ou lost to Takahashi, 21-12, 23-25, 14-21, while Kim won by default against Jeremi Montenejo in the semis. Ou and Montenejo and will clash for

third place honors.

It will be youth versus veteran for the women's singles B crown with Havika Farro going up against Loyda Ito, while Merlie Tolentino takes on Nicole Malasarte for third place.

The women's C title match

See SUN PALACE on Page 30

